Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 213 | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Which of the Interior Department recommendations for long-term foreign workers in the CNMI do you support?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Ground Zero
It is a place of sacrifice. A place of mourning. A place people pass by on their way to grab lunch.

NATION...Page 14

Aging Philanthropist
The aging man in frayed clothes has barely lowered his body onto the sidewalk when the money starts piling up.

FOCUS...Page 17

Doing it Again
Tony Bennett certainly has enough inner sunshine these days to ward off rainy-day blues.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

CUC tracks down 6 mystery leaks in Tanapag, Lower Base. PAGE 2
Evidence in marijuana plantation case suppressed. PAGE 3

Senate deletes exit poll in election bill

Proposed business fee hikes cut in half

» Cuts in tax rebates, new taxes, new fees, cell phone tax, govt funding for early retirement

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators cut in half most of the business license fee increases the House of Representatives is proposing and added new revenue-generating provisions in its substitute bill.

See BUSINESS on Page 4

« HOW THEY DIFFER

Samples of differences between House's and Senate's proposed increases in annual license fees

	CURRENT FEE	HOUSE	SENATE
Banks	$500	$1,000	$750
Offshore banking	$1,000	$2,000	$1,500
Insurance companies	$300	$600	$400
Manufacturers	$50	$2,000	$150
Scuba diving tour operations	$100	$200	$150
Wholesalers	$50	$300	$150
Roadside vendors (local produce only)	$5	$100	$25
Roadside vendors (imported produce only)	$5	$300	$300

See TABLE on Page 4

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In yet another stinging rebuke to the House of Representatives, the Senate deleted from an election bill Friday night a provision that would have asked voters in November their stance on a proposal to grant improved immigration status to foreign workers in the CNMI.

The Senate passed House Bill 17-104 on an 8-0 vote after deleting the exit poll provision. This came after senators

See SENATE on Page 4

PSS all set for school opening today

» Over 10K students expected this school year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System is all set for the opening of classes today, with a little over 10,000 students expected to troop to campuses on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, who was seen visiting schools yesterday, said there will be over 500 classroom teachers this school year, majority of whom completed various summer institutes and trainings during summer.

Sablan is asking motorists to be extra careful when passing through school zones as many students will be converg-

See PSS on Page 4

Roselle Carreon, a third-grade teacher at Oleai Elementary School, uses a vacuum cleaner to tidy up her classroom yesterday afternoon, in time for today's opening of public schools for School Year 2010-2011. Carreon said she has been preparing her classroom in the past three weeks, including repainting the interior wall, with the help of her husband Nick, her son, two goddaughters, and a parent volunteer.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

CUC tracks down 6 mystery leaks in Tanapag, Lower Base

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has found and successfully repaired six mystery leaks that were costing it some 230 gallons of water per minute in Tanapag and Lower Base last week.

"As a result of the repairs, there was a big improvement in water pressure to homes," said Abe Utu Malae, CUC assistant executive director.

He said the leaks affected some 50 families in Tanapag and Lower Base.

Based on the Tanapag leak summary report submitted to CUC yesterday, chlorine crews helped collect pressure readings at the wells and distribution system, while the repair crew "walked" the lines from the source into the distribution system starting with Lower Base swamp areas.

Malae said many of the old lines traversed hillsides, private properties, and heavily vegetated swamp areas in Lower Base and Tanapag.

CUC wastewater crews assisted in walking the lines in the swampy areas as many wastewater lines were also in the area.

Twelve locations were sampled for water pressure. In one site, pressure on Aug. 30 was at 12 pounds per square; this increased to 65 psi on Friday, Sept. 3.

"The crews did a marvelous job. It is amazing what can be done when everyone works cooperatively for a good cause," said Malae.

The detection of a two-inch line leak was particularly difficult as it was located in a drainage waterway, Malae said, adding that acoustic listening devices would not have picked up signals from this leak.

The repair work, however, is considered a band-aid solution at best.

"The permanent solution is to physically disconnect old mains from the newer PVC lines. With field data indicating increased pressures it anticipates a similar situation reoccurring," the CUC report states.

A permanent solution is expected to take at least 18 to 24 months.

Malae commended the cooperation of the Fire Department led by Chief Thomas Manglona who helped supply water to the power plant and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores for the water deliveries to affected families.

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

What are the Benefits of Tourism?

Part I

The itinerary of an average visitor to the Northern Marianas is fairly predictable: A young family arrives late at night at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and takes a bus to their hotel to check in. In the morning they enjoy fresh bananas and papaya with their breakfast before setting out for a tour of scenic and historic sites in Marpi. The next day they take a snorkeling tour of Managaha before picking up some dinner and souvenirs at the Garapan Street Market. On day three, they grab a taxi for some shopping downtown before they catch a hotel dinner show. Before they know it, three days have passed in a blur, and it's time to catch their flight back home.

Throughout their visit, each tourist touches the life of the local community. The same flight bringing them to the islands may also carry residents returning home, cargo, mail and other essentials. The bus that took this visiting family to their hotel was driven by a local man who's been driving tour buses for the last 10 years. The fresh bananas and papayas were grown by a local farmer. The popular historic sites in Marpi are maintained by field technicians employed by the Division of Parks and Recreation. On Managaha, the visiting family paid landing fees which were used to keep the island clean for both visitors and residents to enjoy. At the street market, a local artist sold a few carved necklaces and a local restaurant sold a dinner plate to the family. The taxi they hailed to go downtown was owned by a local woman, and the sales attendant employed at the store downtown was a mother of four. Young dancers were hired by the hotel for the evening dinner show.

These are just a few practical ways the tourism industry benefits the Northern Marianas. In the next Tourism Tuesday, we'll take a closer look at how this economic driver supports other economic activities in the Northern Marianas.

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

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DUE TO LACK OF A SEARCH WARRANT

Evidence in marijuana plantation case suppressed

» Judge urges DPS to implement refresher orientation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Evidence obtained by police officers in the case against a father and son allegedly found cultivating marijuana plants in As Matuis has been suppressed due to the lack of a search warrant.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said the warrantless search police did on the property of Juan B. Castro and his son Vicente C. Castro violated their Fourth Amendment rights.

The statement the Castros gave police will also be suppressed for violating the suspects' Fifth Amendment rights, Wiseman said.

The Fourth Amendment protects citizens from unlawful searches and seizures. The Fifth Amendment protects the accused against self-incrimination.

Because criminal case law evolves and new cases come to light, setting new case precedents and modifying existing case law, Wiseman suggested that the Department of Public Safety should implement a policy to have refresher orientations for its officers so that they may stay abreast of policies, new and old, that might affect their duties.

Wiseman said the police department has a duty and a responsibility to make proper searches based on probable cause, after first obtaining a search warrant.

"There were no exigent circumstances, hot pursuit, or fear that the evidence would be destroyed that would have allowed the police officers to search defendants' property without a warrant," he said.

DPS said the officers seized 145 marijuana plants ranging from two to three feet tall and that the Castros admitted owning the plantation during questioning.

According to court records, police had learned from a confidential source that Juan Castro was growing marijuana plants at his residence. On March 16, 2010, at least two police vehicles carrying officers drove to the area and saw several marijuana plants growing outside the suspects' property. The police seized the plants and questions the Castros about the plantation.

Both Castros said the officers never read them their rights nor did the officers show either one of them a search warrant prior to searching the property. They also stated they never gave the officers permission to search the residence.

The Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the CNMI government, argued that the officers had probable cause to search the area under the "open field doctrine."

The OAG claimed that the marijuana plants were in plain view since the police were able to see the marijuana plants through the jungle.

The government also argued that the suspects were advised of their constitutional rights, and that both admitted to growing and smoking marijuana plants.

Vincent Castro filed the motion to suppress. Juan Castro joined in the motion.

The Castros argued that police officers did not have a warrant to search the property, that they never consented to the search, and that they were never read their Miranda rights.

The government argued that since the search occurred beyond the curtilage of the home, the protections of the Fourth Amendment do not apply.

The curtilage of a home refers to the area surrounding the dwelling-house proper and is protected by the Fourth Amendment.

In his order, Wiseman said he does not believe that the government has met its burden showing that the search was outside the curtilage of Castros' home.

"The police officers did not state with specificity where the search took place, they did not state how far away from the residence they were when they spotted the marijuana plants, nor did they state where the clearing was located in relation to the jungle," Wiseman said.

The judge said while he finds that there is no dispute that the marijuana in the clearing was in plain view or that the incriminating nature of the marijuana plants was immediately apparent, the police did not have a prior justification for being on defendants' property.

"Even if the officers saw marijuana plants outside the curtilage of defendants' home, the police did not have the authority to enter defendants' property without a warrant to seize the plants," he said.

"Had the police officers followed proper procedure and presented an impartial judicial officer with an affidavit asserting probable cause, the evidence shows that a warrant would most likely have been issued," he added.

Zoning Office begins public education campaign

The Saipan Zoning Office kicked off its public education campaign through the John Gonzales Live television show on Sept. 1.

"The public education campaign aims to introduce [the Zoning Office] to the public," Zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt told *Saipan Tribune.*

Wyatt said they discussed in the show three local bills pending with the Legislature and the Zoning board's position on these bills, including one that was recently enacted into law.

Authored by Rep. Stanley T. Torres (Ind-Saipan), HLB 17-1 seeks to suspend the implementation of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

HLB17-26, also introduced by Torres, proposes the rezoning of certain areas on Saipan.

Enacted in June, Local law 17-2 rezones certain portions of Tanapag, I-Denni, Chalan Kiya, and Oleai.

"I thought it went better than expected," Wyatt said of the show.

Wyatt said they received a number of phone-in questions and comments from the public, both positive and negative. "That was good. People were listening," he added.

Board chair Herminia Fusco said Thursday the television show is only first of their campaign. She said they would update information on the fact sheets developed by former administrator Steve Tilley so they could distribute it to the public. ***(Clarissa David)***

#4
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PSS

From Page 1

ing on schools today. She also cited the importance of the support of the police department in ensuring visibility in all school areas to safeguard students.

Sablan is expected to continue her visits to each school on Saipan today. Associate commissioner Jackie Quitugua is slated to monitor Rota schools, while associate commissioner James Peter Le'au will be on Tinian for the same purpose.

School administrators and their staff were also in their respective campuses yesterday, completing last-minute preparations.

Sablan said schoolchildren from kindergarten to 12th grade are expected to begin classes as early as 6:45 today, depending on their schedule.

According to Eric Atalig, PSS bus department program officer, 29 regular buses and vans are ready to transport students on three islands. The bus department has 18 drivers—enough to man the school vehicles.

The Department of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health had already completed its sanitary inspections of all schools, and has affirmed the schools' conformity with all requirements and standards.

Sablan is asking for the continuous support of parents and the community in ensuring the protection and progress of all students.

"It's going to be a great year and we ask the support of our parents and community for the success of our students," she said.

Schools went through major and minor repairs during summer in time for today's opening of classes.

Increased enrolment

Initial reports of school administrators indicate an increase in the number of students, Sablan said, but she said the figures are not final until they are submitted to the central office.

"All of our schools indicated they have increased enrollment," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The PSS and the Board of Education will meet and review the data after this week's opening to ensure that there is equal distribution of teachers among classrooms, she added.

This year, Marianas High School is expected to register about 1,400 students—a bump from the previous school year's 1,200 due to the re-zoning of some areas in San Antonio and Koblerville. This is also due to the enrollment cap being enforced at Saipan Southern High School.

BUSINESS

From Page 1

The revenue-generating provisions include cutting tax rebates, raising poker machine annual license fee by $1,000, imposing a license fee for non-bank automated teller machines, increasing so-called "sin" taxes, creating a new "sweet" tax, raising poker fees, imposing a funeral services license fee of $300, and providing a loan of $2 million for government employees wishing to retire.

Senators also approved a 10-percent ad valorem tax on cellular or mobile telephones.

The Senate passed House Bill 17-40, HD2, Senate Substitute 1 during its Friday session on Tinian.

Of the eight senators present, four voted "yes" on the bill, while four abstained from voting.

Those who voted "yes" were Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

Those who abstained were Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

"There's a lot of increases in fees and taxes and I'd like to retain my consistency in not raising taxes and fees," Reyes said before abstaining from voting.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) was absent during the session on Tinian.

License fee hikes

The House wanted to increase by 100 percent, or from $500 to $1,000, the current annual license fee for banks. But the Senate capped the increase at 50 percent only, or at $750.

The House raised the annual license fee for hotels/motels to $500, but the Senate raised it to only $150.

Roadside vendors selling only local produce will be taxed $25 under the Senate proposal, but the House wants these vendors taxed $100 from the current $5.

House members approved a 100-percent increase in the annual license fee of insurance companies, from $300 to $600. Again, the Senate lowered the increase to only $400. ***(See table for comparisons)***

Senators said the rate increases in annual license fees proposed by the House are too steep, and will further hurt the remaining businesses in the CNMI.

Manglona also said new revenue-generating provisions in the bill will make up for the eight-hour cuts in work hours per pay period instead of the 16 hours the House and the Fitial administration wanted.

The Fitial administration and the Legislature, however, both agree that austerity measures should be accompanied by revenue-generating bills to be able to live within the $132 million budget available for government operations in Fiscal Year 2011.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business group in the CNMI, has been opposed to measures that would make it costlier to do business in the CNMI, particularly increases in fees and taxes.

'Sin, sweet' taxes

The Senate substitute bill increases "sin" taxes imposed on tobacco and alcohol products.

Revenue generated from the sin tax increase will go toward promotion of tobacco and alcohol prevention programs.

Under the Senate proposal, cigarette tax will be increased from $1.75 to $3 per pack.

Tobacco or tobacco substitute or chewable tobacco products will be taxed 70 percent instead of the current 60 percent of the invoice price.

Beer and malt beverages will be taxed 2.5 cents instead of the current 2 cents per fluid ounce.

The tax on distilled alcoholic beverages will be increased from 18 cents to 20 cents per fluid ounce.

Wine and sake will be taxed 8 cents instead of 5 cents per fluid ounce.

The Senate also approved imposing a new tax called "sweet" tax, targeting junk food and junk drinks. Revenue earned from such tax will go toward programs that will combat obesity, diabetes, and other health problems in the CNMI.

Food stuff will be imposed a 1-percent ad valorem tax, while candy gum will be subject to 5-percent ad valorem tax.

Bar, cell phone taxes

The Senate also approved a 10-percent ad valorem on mobile telephones, and a $300 annual license fee for funeral services.

The Senate substitute bill also increases the bar tax, from 10 to 15 percent of the total charge for any alcoholic beverage sold or consumed at the establishment.

Other alcoholic and tobacco licenses of manufacturers, wholesale agents, retail dealers and temporary licenses will also be increased.

Senators also approved a $1 surcharge fee for customs, agricultural, and quarantine inspection service.

This will be imposed on every individual entering the CNMI.

Rebate cuts

Under the Senate substitute bill, tax rebates will also be cut beginning with the year 2010 and ending at the end of Fiscal Year 2013.

If the tax rebate base is not over $20,000, the rebate amount will be reduced to 80 percent of the rebate base, instead of 90 percent.

If the rebate base is over $20,000 but not over $60,000, the rebate will be $16,000 instead of $18,000, plus 70 percent of rebate base over $20,000.

If the rebate base is over $60,000 but not over $100,000, the rebate will be $44,000 plus 50-percent of the rebate base over $60,000.

Rebate base of over $100,000 will have a rebate amount of $64,000 instead of $74,000, plus 30-percent instead of 50-percent of the rebate base over $100,000.

Any savings on the rebate offset amount will be used to buy a magnetic resonance imaging or MRI machine, and CAT Scan machine for the Commonwealth Health Center to improve and enhance its diagnostic capability.

The savings will also be used to buy 60 new beds for CHC, and for other public health purchases and expenditures as determined by the Health secretary.

Retirement loans

Under the substitute bill, the CNMI government is required to give $2 million to the Commonwealth Government Employees Credit Union so it could provide low-interest loans for employees wishing to retire with less than the required years of service to receive full benefits.

These loans will be used to cover the lump sum payment needed to retire at full benefits that are normally reduced based on the NMI Retirement Fund's duty to reduce benefits by an actuarially determined amount for each month the member is under 62 years old.

"These loans shall be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The monies shall be loaned at a rate of 5 percent interest, and secured with the employee's retirement benefits. As monies are repaid, they shall be dedicated to provide other employees the opportunity to retire as funds become available," the bill says.

The government is not to fill the retiring employee's position without the joint approval of the Legislature, but only once the retiring employee's position has remained vacant for six months.

Education tax credit, DPS and Judicial funds

Senators also amended the education tax credit law, by allowing 50 percent of any cash contribution to be remitted to the CNMI Scholarship Office.

The Senate also proposed a special operating fund within the Department of Public Safety.

Starting 30 days after the effective date of the revenue-generating law, 40 percent of all criminal and civil fines, and all revenues collected by the courts will be deposited in the DPS operating fund.

This fund will compensate DPS employees working for more than 40 hours in a calendar week or for any overtime work, and for recruiting and training new police officers.

The Senate substitute bill also allows the creation of a Judicial Building Fund, into which 60 percent of all criminal and civil fines and revenues that the courts collect will be deposited.

TABLE

From Page 1

Samples of new fees, fee hikes proposed by Senate, but are not in House bill

- Funeral services annual license fee, $300
- Poker machine licensee fee increase, from $7,000 to $8,000
- Non-bank ATMs annual license fee, $1,000
- Cigarette excise tax hike, from $1.75 to $3 a pack
- Beer tax, from 2 cents to 2.5 cents per fluid ounce
- Cellular phone tax, 10 percent ad valorem
- Bar tax, from 10 to 15-percent of total charge for any alcoholic beverage sold
- Rebate tax cuts

Source: House Bill 17-40, HD2, Senate Substitute 1

SENATE

From Page 1

also voted to kill the Saipan casino bill and amend the budget bill.

Press secretary Angel Demapan described the exit poll's demise as "unfortunate."

"We had pushed for the poll in an effort to allow the people to be heard," he said yesterday.

HB 17-104 goes back to the House.

The exit poll, separate from the ballot, aimed to ask voters to choose "yes" or "no" to whether they support the U.S. Department of the Interior's recommendation on what to do with the CNMI's long-term alien worker population.

During Friday's session, senators explained why they do not want to vote on the election bill if the exit poll provision is not removed. Only Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) was absent from the session.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said he could support the exit poll when his Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies is already halfway in reporting on a series of public hearings on the Interior report and recommendation.

"I understand the urgency of passing this bill but I have concerns on the exit poll on the Interior report. The FRIA Committee conducted hearings for three months. I cannot support this [exit poll] when the committee is halfway done with the report. I'm a bit uncomfortable; it contradicts what FRIA has been working on," Hofschneider said.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said the exit poll was a topic of discussion between the governor and lawmakers.

However, that meeting wrapped up without finalizing the language of the exit poll until a few days later when a House election bill was substituted to include the exit poll and the specific question to be asked.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Saipan) reminded his colleagues that HB 17-104 has two major sections: preventing early voting abuse and the exit poll.

The bill primarily addresses Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's concerns on early voting fraud and abuse. He vetoed an election reform bill because of these concerns, but the House and Senate overrode the governor's veto, citing the need to make the language of the CNMI election law conform to that of the federal election law ahead of the Nov. 2 delegate election.

The Legislature, however, said they will introduce a separate bill, HB 17-104.

Manglona echoed Hofschneider's concern that the FRIA Committee is now working on a report on a series of public hearings it conducted on the Interior report.

Interior recommended granting improved status to foreign workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for at least five years, including conferring them with U.S. citizenship, granting them permanent residency status leading to citizenship, or granting them a status similar to those given to Freely Associated States.

"Very reluctantly, I want to offer an amendment. We remove the provision on exit polling," Manglona said during the session held in the cafeteria of Tinian Elementary School.

The Senate agreed to give the Senate legal counsel the authority to make the necessary changes to the election bill, including removing language related to the exit poll. This means amending and/or deleting page 1, 2, 6 and 7.

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), who offered Thursday an amendment to delete the opening phrase in the exit poll because he said it was misleading and loaded, said yesterday that he's glad the Senate decided to just remove the provision.

The opening phrase states: "Without consulting the governor as required by PL 110-229…"

Benavente, in a brief phone interview yesterday, reiterated that he didn't object to having an exit poll provision in the election bill, but he would like the language to be amended to make it fair and less confusing to voters.

The exit poll would have been printed on a sheet separate from the ballots.

The bill passed the House on a 12-7 vote, crossing party lines, while House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) abstained from voting.

Korean foundation awards 16 scholarships to NMC students

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Northern Marianas College students who received scholarships from Doeul Scholarship Foundation pose with NMC staff during a presentation ceremony held Saturday. The Doeul Scholarship Foundation was founded by Hong Kyun Kim, seated, second left, Special Economic Adviser for Korea, in honor of his son who was also an NMC student when he passed away in 2003.

The Doeul Scholarship Foundation awarded 16 scholarships worth $15,300 to Korean students of the Northern Marianas College in a short and simple ceremony on Saturday at the Gana Day Care Center in Koblerville.

Doeul founder Hong Kyun Kim urged the students to use the scholarship not only to obtain knowledge but also wisdom.

According to Kim, having knowledge does not necessarily mean being wise. "I really hope that you can be wise people with much knowledge," he told the students.

Kim advised the students to "live wisely" and "with a sense of morality." He said students must use their knowledge appropriately and not cause harm to others.

He also urged the students to "become valuable and talented people" that will respond to society's needs.

Representatives of the NMC faculty and staff were also present during Saturday's ceremony.

Barbara Merfalen, acting dean of Academic Programs and Services, congratulated the recipients and acknowledged the financial support extended by the foundation.

"Your support of these students' educational pursuits and your investment into their futures speaks volumes of your commitment to education and the Northern Marianas College," she said.

Lee Rae Kwon, 23, told *Saipan Tribune* that she is thankful for being chosen as one of the recipients of the scholarship grant from the Doeul Foundation.

Kwon, who is currently taking up Liberal Arts and Hospitality Management, said the $750 will help her pay half of her semester fees.

"I hope the foundation will continue to support students like me. If I become successful, I will also do my part and pass it on to others," she said.

Appointed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial as Special Economic Adviser for Korea last month, Kim said he believes in the importance of education in one's life.

He started the foundation to pay tribute to his son, Doeul Kim, who was also an NMC student when he passed away seven years ago.

Although he had to deal with financial difficulties when he himself was a student, Kim said it should not hinder people from learning and instead encourage them to strive hard to finish school.

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Ogumoro resigns as SHEFA board chairperson

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Felicidad Ogumoro, the current vice speaker of the House of Representatives, has resigned from her position as chairperson of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance.

According to Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, Ogumoro resigned from the SHEFA board in accordance with the law that bars an elected official from serving in any government board or commission.

Flores said Ogumoro gave him her resignation letter, with the intention to end her term on Oct. 1. He accepted her resignation.

Saipan Tribune learned that some lawmakers, mostly members of the House Committee on Education, had asked Ogumoro to step down from the SHEFA chairmanship due to conflict of interest.

Ogumoro

As the appointing authority to the SHEFA board, Flores said he will submit new names this week to the Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for confirmation.

"I will be submitting this week three new names for the SHEFA board as replacements for those individuals whose terms expired this year," he said.

He declined to name his nominees to the board.

According to Flores, only two members actively serve on the board at present and that some members' terms expired in April. It requires five.

He disclosed that the management of SHEFA failed to inform him about this lack of quorum.

"They did not even inform the mayor and provide me the information about this. It's only when I put some pressure on them that I found out that only two members are actively serving on board," Flores said.

He said he will review the present structure of the program and will reorganize it to make it more effective.

Flores needs more 'flexibility' in use of stray animal funding

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mayor Donald Flores said his office needs more flexibility in using the budget allocation for the stray animal shelter program.

Flores told *Saipan Tribune* that the $75,000 funding that was remitted in 2006 to the Mayor's Office account should only be used for the construction of the actual shelter.

This amount is part of the $250,000 budget allocated to the Mayor's Office for the stray animal shelter program.

Of this amount, the mayor said only $65,000 remains when he took charge of the office.

Flores said that a lot of work needs to be done like the clearing of the property where the shelter will be built.

He said his staff has been working with personnel from the Northern Marianas Trades Institute in getting the former Saipan Manufacturers Inc. facility in Lower Base ready to serve as the site for the stray animal shelter.

"I am thankful to Tony [Pellegrino] because he has been very, very helpful to our office," said the mayor, referring to the president of NMTI.

Although NMTI provides them the needed assistance, Flores said they still need to pay these personnel for their time.

Besides manpower, Flores said he also needs funding to cover the costs they incur in tidying up the shelter site such as sandblasting and roof repairs.

But the law only requires them to use the $65,000 for construction, he said.

Flores met with Reps. Joe Palacios and Eli Cabrera last week to see what they can do to accommodate what is needed to help them with the stray animal program.

"The initial money has been appropriated but we will see what we can do," said Palacios (R-Saipan).

Cabrera (R-Saipan) said they will review the law to try "and give them the flexibility to spend the budget."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mayor Donald Flores gestures as he talks to, from left, Rep. Eli Cabrera, Northern Marianas Trades Institute president Tony Pellegrino, NMTI education director Victorino Cepeda, and Rep. Joe Palacios last week at the stray animal shelter facility in Lower Base.

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DPW, Tinian and Rota mayors cited for violating dumpsite rules

» DPW says its needs more time to meet stipulations

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Environmental Quality has issued three separate administrative orders to the Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Offices of Tinian and Rota for failure to comply with landfill operating requirements.

DEQ said these offices' non-compliance pose a threat to human health and the environment.

The administrative orders were issued after DEQ inspected the Tinian municipal dump, Rota municipal dump, and the Marpi Solid Waste Facility on Saipan in compliance with the Commonwealth Solid Waste Management Act and the CNMI Solid Waste Management Regulations.

Tinian and Rota

DEQ checked out the Tinian municipal dump on Jan. 20 and the Rota municipal dump the next day.

"During the inspection, DEQ observed that the dump was not being operated in compliance with relevant requirements or basic sanitary practices, as documented in the Inspection Report produced by DEQ on March 25," states the separate orders.

Both the Tinian and Rota municipal dumps violate air quality regulations for the open burning of solid wastes.

The administrative orders also maintained that the municipal dumps failed "to cover the solid waste…with at least 6 inches of earthen material at the end of each operating day.

It also cited both dumps for failing to control on-site populations of disease carriers and implement a waste exclusion plan to prevent receiving hazardous wastes and polychlorinated biphenyl wastes.

The administrative orders also pointed out the lack of trained operators in the two dumps as well as control of public access to prevent unauthorized disposal within and outside the damp.

DEQ ordered DPW and the Tinian and Rota mayor's offices to terminate the burning of wastes at dumps, cover disposed solid waste with at least 12 inches of earth cover and begin applying daily cover within 14 days from the date of the order.

DEQ also instructed them to put up a signage and portable entry barriers to direct the public to the proper disposal area, provide equipment to manage the dump, initiate the approved Marpi Solid Waste Landfill Facility Waste Exclusion Plan, and identify a temporary disposal site within the landfill for septic tank pumping, also within 14 days from the order's effective date.

It also ordered the Tinian and Rota municipal dumps to each have full time site supervisors and heavy equipment operators to oversee dump operations.

DEQ asked for written responses indicating actions taken or planned within 14 days as well as an interim Operations Plan that targets to improve operations "until such time a new landfill can be constructed."

Failure to abide by the order's provisions would result in a civil fine of $100 per violation per day.

Saipan

DEQ had already issued an administrative order for the Marpi Solid Waste Facility on Saipan on Nov. 16, 2007.

On Jan. 19, it inspected the Marpi landfill to ascertain DPW's compliance with the order.

Based on findings, DPW failed to construct a compacted clay berm; this will cost it $75,800 in fines.

For failure to conduct required landfill sampling and monitoring, DPW will be fined $74,900.

DPW was also cited for failure to repair the leachate pumping system, for which DEQ could be fined up to $703,000.

All penalties have been assessed as of inspection date, which is Jan. 19.

As per recent order, DEQ required DPW to "remove all used oil from the DPW Transfer Station in Lower Base at a cost of no less than $25,000" and "pay DEQ a fine in the amount of $15,000 no later than Sept. 15."

'Unrealistic'

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last week, DPW Secretary Martin Sablan said he has been communicating with DEQ director Frank Rabauliman to discuss the three orders.

Sablan said he will meet with Rabauliman to work out the schedule for them to comply with the administrative orders.

He said they need a "reasonable time" to meet DEQ's requirements.

"Some of this timeframe, timeline for us to rectify the problem are unrealistic because either we just don't have the resources or we just don't have the manpower," he said.

According to Sablan, some of the provisions are actually "quick-fixes" while some need more time to be addressed like the adequate and trained personnel as well as the construction of the compacted clay berm which he said needs good clay material.

Sablan said they are also looking at obtaining federal funding to meet the terms of the orders.

When asked about paying the fines, Sablan said "we'll do what we have to do and pay it" but pointed out that there are requirements that also needs funding.

"I'd rather pay DEQ the fine rather than the federal [government]," he added.

USCG responds to submarine grounding in the Apra Harbor

GUAM—The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating the grounding of a tour submarine in the western shoals of Apra Harbor, Monday.

Coast Guard Sector Guam was notified at 8am that the *Atlanta V* submarine had run aground.

A 25-foot response boat crew was launched and arrived at approximately 8:16am. No pollution was observed as a result of the grounding.

At 9:30am an investigator and a marine inspector arrived to evaluate the structural integrity of the hull and damage to the reef on which it is grounded. No damage has been reported on the hull.

The submarine was freed from the reef at approximately 4:37pm and will be evaluated for damage.

No people were onboard the submarine at the time and no injuries have been reported. ***(USCG)***

EOIR completes implementation of digital audio recording project

FALLS CHURCH, Va.—The Executive Office for Immigration Review announced Friday that it has completed the installation of its Digital Audio Recording system in all of its courtrooms, four weeks ahead of schedule.

The DAR system is a state-of-the-art recording tool designed to achieve a better quality and more easily accessible recording of immigration court hearings.

"The immigration courts and the public will benefit from the tremendous improvements in the technology available with DAR," said acting director Thomas Snow. "This new system provides transcribers, judges, attorneys, and others within the immigration community access to the recorded hearing in a more timely and efficient manner."

At the conclusion of a hearing, DAR allows for recordings to be available sooner. DAR replaces an analog tape system, which required immigration courts to mail tapes for transcription. This new system improves the quality of recordings and transcriptions through the use of more microphones throughout each courtroom. DAR also decreases the time it takes to receive and transfer recordings of proceedings for transcription once appeals are filed.

EOIR began implementing DAR in November 2007 with a targeted completion date of Sept. 30, 2010. More than 300 courtrooms in EOIR's 59 immigration courts are now using DAR. ***(EOIR)***

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Ex-convict who assaulted boy gets 3-day term

The Superior Court has imposed a three-day prison term on an ex-convict who beat up a 13-year-old boy who was walking his dog at the Koblerville Housing.

Charlie K. Misaro was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for three days, for assault and battery, with credit for the one day he had already served in jail.

The 21-year-old Misaro completed the remaining two days at the Department of Corrections yesterday morning.

He was placed on supervised probation for one year and directed to perform 50 hours of community service.

The court, however, will waive the reporting requirement and community service should Misaro obtain full time employment in a jurisdiction outside the CNMI.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered Misaro to pay $391.85 in restitution to the boy and a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus a probation fee.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Misaro with assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and resisting arrest. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea bargain.

Misaro assaulted the 13-year-old boy on May 30, 2010, on Saipan. Police said the boy was walking his dog on the street in front of his residence in Koblerville. Upon reaching house number K-26B, the boy heard clapping sounds and saw Misaro standing near a trash can and calling him.

When the boy approached, Misaro confronted him for allegedly talking bad about him.

Misaro pulled the boy about 40 feet to a yard between two houses, then punched him repeatedly. He also allegedly held the victim in a headlock.

A witness approached and separated the two, then told the boy to run home.

The victim reportedly sustained a lacerated lip, bleeding nose, and swollen left cheek.

Police arrested Misaro in July.

In February 2009, the Superior Court placed Misaro on a one-year probation for criminal mischief for punching a Toyota Corolla car owned by Edward M. Muña, causing damage to the trunk lid. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Zoning approves hardware's conditional permit

The Saipan Zoning Board approved the conditional use permit application of Hong Ye Hardware during its regular meeting Thursday night.

Zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt told *Saipan Tribune* that Hong Ye Hardware applied for a conditional use permit to construct a commercial building for the warehousing and wholesaling of hardware goods. The proposed building will replace the existing building of Hong Ye Hardware.

Wyatt said the applicant would also like to construct a single-family residence on the top of the commercial structure.

The property, located on the west side of Beach Road between Abraham Place and San Isidoro Avenue, is zoned as village-commercial and is surrounded on all sides by other village-commercial properties.

According to Wyatt, Hong Ye Hardware submitted a plan that included all the requirements and comments that were brought up during the public hearing held Aug. 12.

This includes the adequate landscaping provision in front of and along the sides of the property, a 24-foot wide driveway into the property, a sidewalk within the public right of way, and a handicapped space with a 5-foot wide access isle.

Wyatt said the approval of the conditional use permit application would result in "a nicer building, a nicer off-street parking and sidewalks."

"We will see improvements in that area," he added. ***(Clarissa David)***

PSS TOP GUNS
From left, Public School System federal programs coordinator Tim Thornburgh, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, and PSS finance director Richard Waldo during a Senate session at Tinian Elementary School on Friday, to tackle the Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill. The Senate passed the budget measure on an 8-0 vote.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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Commonwealth Ports Authority
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CPA-RFP-007-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for auditing services for a period of three fiscal years. The locations and scope of work package is available beginning Tuesday, September 7, 2010 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interested proposers must submit one original and three copies of the sealed proposal. Only proposals from U.S. nationally recognized firms will be accepted.

The sealed proposals must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., Monday, September 27, 2010, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-10

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services for the four (4) loading bridges. All proposers must show proof of loading bridge repair or similar experience. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, September 3, 2010. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport".* One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 7, 1999

CPA seeks changes to lease agreement with Tinian Shipping

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is seeking an immediate amendment to the lease agreement with Tinian Shipping so that it can carry out its own collection of passenger fees and remove the burden from Tinian Shipping. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said such amendment will allow the ports authority to charge the passengers $5.85, the new approved rates against the $3.75 under the lease agreement. The new seaport rates took effect on July 1, 1999 as part of CPA's revenue-generating measure to pay its $33 million debt and meet operating expenses.

Job placement agency for CNMI graduates eyed

To help college graduates find jobs, a legislative proposal is seeking the establishment of a program that will refer these students to prospective employers and thus provide opportunities for them to enter the local workforce. According to the bill offered by Rep. David M. Apatang, the proposed program will also help lessen reliance by the CNMI on foreign manpower as it will prioritize graduating and returning local students in positions held by alien workers. Its immediate purpose, however, is to "ease the burden for returning CNMI graduates in finding the right job for them and for employers in obtaining the best qualified employee," the representative said.

Sept. 7, 2000

NMC sued for illegal termination

A former employee of the Northern Marianas College has sued NMC for alleged illegal termination of her contract after she provided the House of Representatives a copy of the cost-cutting plan of the college during an oversight hearing in 1999. An employee of NMC since July 1987, Malinda S. Matson has held several positions at the college where she first worked as director of Library Services and most recently as acting radio station manager until her termination. In a civil suit filed before the Superior Court through her lawyer Richard W. Pierce, Ms. Matson is seeking reinstatement to a position for which she is qualified at NMC. She is also seeking monetary damages including the loss of salary and the value of benefits denied to her.

House restricts use of fire hydrant

The House of Representatives yesterday passed legislation restricting use of fire hydrants in the wake of report that some residents have opened them up to get water for their own consumption. HB 12-254, offered by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, will seek imprisonment of up to six months and/or fine of not less than $250 nor more than $1,000 against violators. Lawmakers hoped the measure would deter people from improper use of the fire hydrants which are being exposed to damages that may result to delay when firemen respond to emergencies. The wear and tear on the tread and bolt could cause undue delay during disasters such as a fire, according to a report prepared by the House Committee on Judicial and Government Operations.

Sept. 7, 2001

Community workshops slated to educate families

Most parents work to provide their family with clothing, food and shelter. As a result, guardians become too busy to take care of the emotional and spiritual needs of the family. Although there are a number of parenting support groups, many parents do not participate for various reasons. Families need additional education and support to strengthen their family values. In previous community symposiums, participants repeatedly requested regular workshops and activities geared toward enhancing family relationships.

NMC Tinian sponsors 'Walk For Life'

As part of Northern Marianas College's 20th anniversary celebration, 50 participants came together at dawn on a breezy Sunday morning at the West Tinian Airport intersection to kick off the Walk For Life. This is an event celebrated each month in Tinian promoting the importance of a healthy lifestyle, which was sponsored by NMC for the month of August. The walk started at 6am and was successfully completed at Taga Beach, where free NMC logo items and refreshments were provided. In addition to the walk, NMC Tinian Campus Administrator Jim Wedding gave a brief presentation about the facilities and extended programs, which the College has to offer the community. Wedding's correspondence with the high school has allowed students to reinitiate the use of Auto Service and Construction Trade classes for the college.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 213

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
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EDITORIAL

Moving on in Iraq

Given President Obama's opposition to the war in Iraq, he did a commendable job of highlighting our troops' achievements as the combat mission ends.

It would have been hypocritical of this president to declare "victory" in his address to the nation Tuesday night. Not only did Obama oppose the war from the start, but Iraq's future is far from certain.

It was therefore unreasonable for conservative critics such as House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, to expect Obama to give a chest-thumping speech.

Many liberals wanted to hear Obama criticize his predecessor, George W. Bush, for waging war in 2003 under false pretenses. That was another misguided expectation. For Obama to do so would have been unpresidential, and it would have undercut his authority as commander in chief.

Instead, Obama urged the country and his Democratic base to "turn the page." He placed the focus where it should be at this moment—on the sacrifices of the troops. The U.S. military toppled Saddam Hussein's brutal regime, defeated the insurgents and terrorists who emerged in its wake, and trained Iraqis to defend themselves. They achieved far more than our elected leaders believed would be required of them.

There was no special significance about the date that Obama chose. About 50,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq for now as advisers, and unfortunately there will be more casualties even though major combat operations have ended. The bombings in Iraq, although down overall, haven't stopped.

Nevertheless, it was appropriate for the commander in chief to pay public tribute now to the military's sacrifices. More than 4,400 U.S. soldiers lost their lives and more than 31,000 were wounded in this war.

The cost to taxpayers to date has been nearly $750 billion. The nation paid this price, as Obama said, because of "a belief that out of the ashes of war, a new beginning could be born in this cradle of civilization."

The challenge going forward is to not allow those efforts to be squandered. Nearly six months after elections were held in Iraq, rival factions still haven't agreed on a new government. They must forge a coalition if they hope to reduce violence and promote stability.

Obama recognizes the need for a sustained commitment to Iraq through diplomats, aid workers and military advisers. This nation must live up to Obama's pledge to remain a "strong partner" for Iraq in the years ahead.

Turning to Afghanistan, the president was right to ask a war-weary public not to forget what's at stake in the fight against al-Qaeda. The plan is to begin a drawdown of troops next August, but he cautioned it will be dictated by conditions on the ground.

After seven years of war in Iraq, Americans wanted an end to it. Labeling the occasion is far less important than getting the troops out of harm's way at long last.

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Students First

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Students First. How succinct and well put! There is no mistaking the vision and mission, logistic and program, operation and management, research and development of the organization: putting the interest and focus on the students first before anything else. Ancillary are families and communities as part of this added strategy put forward a year ago by PSS CoE Rita Sablan in a catchy *Four Strategic Priorities Plus One* phrase of the organization's direction.

Students across the Commonwealth attend first day of public school today. On hallways will be melodious sounds of "Good morning, Ms. Reyes!" "How are you, Ms. Camacho?" "Yo, Mr. T, what's up?" Students are in their best fineries and good behavior. The oldies escort the newbies with pride. Principal keep their fingers crossed that the ambience would last a day!

My apartment complex is built like a canyon; voice amplifies as in a cavern. This summer, the children's voices echoed until midnight, especially of those whose parents were on night shifts. It was summer but the heat was bearable since crosswinds favored the units. Levity and shrill screams abounded.

At the back of my unit is my neighbor's animal farm with a disoriented rooster that crows from 11 pm and every two hours thereafter until midday the following day. The cock crowed on time last night, but the children's voices were stilled after seven. The smart parents might have tired them on Labor Day so that they were weary and spent by sundown, ready for bed. In any case, the quietude was a welcome change, and we hope it will last awhile with homework, that is, until the weekend again.

Education, of course, is every politician's baby, never mind that somehow it is ignored and/or forgotten at budget time. Congressman Kilili has kept it his focus since he assumed his Capitol Hill office and has delivered goodies; that and Vet Affairs, understandably since education and the military are the primary pathways of social mobility for island residents. That showed in this year's crop of HS grads when about 23 percent signed up with the uniformed services, and twice as many headed for college.

Francis Hazel, S.J., prolific and charitable in prose and thought, forayed into education reform in Chuuk in a recent essay. In it he reveals the intent of education in Micronesia: to get residents to join the educational requirements of the USA, to be assimilated into its workforce and existing private and public agencies. The laidback residents of lagoons and atolls were to learn to discard sories for shoes and leis for ties (my characterization).

On standard tests, where schools in the mainland might perform at 40-45 percentile, Chuuk, at best, would rate at five. Perhaps, the good *padre* might not focus too much on reforming a possibly misplaced structure/system but move one step back or forward, and ask what kind of educational system do the islands really need in and of themselves to participate confidently in the new glocal dispensation, rather than continue to be a sorry appendage of entitlement programs, fodder to Pentagon's human resource needs, and a statistical beep and blip to Wall Street's gyrations.

The same might be asked of PSS and the CNMI.

Answers to three questions of "what, how, and why" would be instructive. "What" is a no-brainer. One begins with science that relies on disciplined observations, with the "how" leaning toward measurable and verifiable data that can be shared and understood by those of the same field (thus, language and math), then move to the disciplines of liberal arts and specialization. PSS has the content covered in its curriculum, though its methods favor the cognitive over the empathetic, mental over emotional intelligence, intellectual over the sensory form of knowledge. Wouldn't it be a sound and a dance if we had variations of a Manta Ray Band in every school? A uke ensemble would be a start. And loud singing and chanting voices in every classroom, I will not mind, followed by Eastern practices of silences. Our curriculum presently train students to get a degree so they can be certificated to hold a desk job, Jacqui Quitugua's broader efforts, notwithstanding!

That's where the "why" comes in.

I bought my first Apple computer because the company intended everyone to have access to the library of Alexandria from anywhere in the world. Translating the metaphor now to the Internet and anyone's access to its huge inventory of databases, Apple did not sell me a computer; they sold me a rational, a *raison d'etre,* a "why" to my existence as a consumer and to theirs as a company.

Ah, that the Board of Education tackles the "why" question more, and the PSS leadership team, from curriculum to professional development, and Coleen Palacios' new course on *Students First,* covers the terrain with depth, breathe, immanence, transcendence, permanence and transparency! That last line might possibly reveal I would not mind being in that conversation, even if PSS already has its full complement of HQTS and no longer has need for an old coot like me, boo-hoo-hoo. We are, nevertheless, clear, not NCLB assessment first, but *Students First!*

In the next election two years hence, when Kilili's billboards reads, *Working With You,* we will know we are headed the students' way.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

I ain't no anchor baby

By ALVARO HUERTA
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

I'm the son of Mexican immigrants, but I ain't no anchor baby.

My late father first migrated to the United States during the 1950s via the Bracero Program, in which more than 4.6 million rural Mexicans performed desperately needed agricultural work in this country. He worked long hours, six days a week, for little pay and under terrible conditions. Later, as a legal permanent resident, he performed factory work for decades at sub-minimum wage.

Meanwhile, my late mother originally came to this country during the 1960s, securing employment as a house cleaner for mostly white, middle-class families. Lacking formal education, like my father, she worked as a domestic worker for more than 40 years. This did not stop her, however, as a naturalized U.S. citizen, from seeking more clients in her twilight years.

Currently, U.S. politicians like Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., are making a big fuss about the U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants. They're calling for a change in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which stipulates that all persons born in the United States are citizens. According to Graham, undocumented immigrants come to this country simply to "drop a child," or what he pejoratively refers to "Drop and Leave."

While Republicans endlessly talk about "family values" and the sanctity of the unborn child, when it comes to Latino immigrants, they defame the family unit and attack brown children. They are consciously instilling fear in the American public by scapegoating Latinos (both documented and undocumented) in this country. Let's not forget that the controversial Arizona law, now held up in court, required police to stop anyone they suspected was here illegally—and that could mean all brown-skinned people.

Responding to the anti-immigrant agenda, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., properly questioned how any person of Latino heritage could be a Republican. Reid should be applauded for calling out Latino Republicans for belonging to a political party that is hostile to them.

Instead of dealing with appalling unemployment figures, high home-foreclosure rates and lack of credit for small businesses, Republicans are targeting the most vulnerable population in this country: undocumented immigrants. By doing so, they are no different than schoolyard bullies. Didn't they learn basic manners, such as treating others with respect and dignity? I certainly learned those lessons from my parents.

My parents taught my siblings and me to be good and generous to others. They also encouraged us to pursue higher education so that we don't experience the same hardships they faced both in Mexico and this country.

My late parents came to this country to seek work and a better life for themselves and their family. They sacrificed themselves—toiling in backbreaking, low-wage, dead-end jobs—so their children could pursue better opportunities not available in their homeland.

Instead of praising them for their sacrifice and hard work, Republicans continue to bash and tarnish the memory of my parents and the millions of others like them in this country.

This is shameful.

Alvaro Huerta is a visiting scholar at UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine. Readers may write to the author at: Progressive Media Project, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; e-mail: pmproj@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org. For information on PMP's funding, visit http://www.progressive.org/pmpabout.html#anchorsupport.

Better food stamp benefits? Just ask

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the U.S. Congress.

Since my first days in Congress I have been working for better food stamp benefits for people in the Northern Mariana Islands, and particularly for people on Tinian and Rota, where food costs are so high.

Four months after being sworn in I convinced Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to increase food stamp funding for the Northern Mariana Islands by 13.6 percent. That brought us $1.46 million for 2009 and $12.15 million for 2010—about $40 more each month for a family of four.

I had to ask Secretary Vilsack for this boost in benefits. Though the Recovery Act, which I voted for in February, included a 13.6-percent increase for food stamps nationally, the NMI was left out because our food stamp program is based on a separate memorandum of understanding with Agriculture.

Secretary Vilsack needed to reprogram funds within his department to give the same 13.6 percent increase to the Northern Marianas, when he agreed to my request. But he was willing to do it, because what I asked was fair.

More can be done to help those who need food stamps. In November and again in January I wrote Governor Fitial, and just this July acting governor Inos, recommending improvements in the food stamp MOU, which can be renegotiated at any time, if either party asks.

I recommended higher food stamp benefit rates for Tinian and Rota because food costs more on these islands.

I recommended lifting the cap on food stamp benefits, so if more people needed help the benefits of those already receiving food stamps would not have to be cut.

And I recommended making some national programs apply in the Northern Marianas, too, such as the standard utility allowance because CUC costs are so high.

I also met twice with Agriculture Undersecretary Kevin Concannon, who is in charge of the Food and Nutrition Service that negotiates the MOU. I wanted to be sure what I was recommending the governor ask for was within the realm of possibility.

Undersecretary Concannon told me he was open to negotiation. The CNMI just had to ask.

Unfortunately, the CNMI has not asked.

That's too bad. Layoffs and cut hours are only going to lead to greater need, especially for families on Rota and Tinian, who already face inflated food costs.

The Agriculture Department has already shown it will respond to a reasonable request. I got the 13.6-percent increase.

Undersecretary Concannon has already told me he's willing to listen.

All the governor has to do is ask.

Editor: U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan wrote the following to explain his reasons for wanting better benefits for NMI food stamp recipients.

Letters to the Editor

Condescension

Condescension (noun): The trait of displaying arrogance by patronizing those considered inferior.

When public officials treat the public with behavior like this it makes one wonder about their character.

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."—Abraham Lincoln

When public officials bully and demean community members with loaded accusations in a vitriolic diatribe, it makes one wonder about their tolerance and ability to accept diversity in the communities they are supposed to represent.

It is hardly the behavior of a statesman.

The condescending tone and bitter connotation is what discourages many people who might otherwise speak up against irrational decision-making and self-serving agendas.

The whole principle of the matter is what we protest. Taking money away from essential service, no matter which one, in order to pay for promises made for votes is wrong no matter which way you cut it. Those essential services serve the CNMI as a whole, unlike the promises that would only serve a few. People, ask yourselves, what would Atticus do?

There has to be other ways. People at several public hearings voiced many ideas that would definitely generate revenue. None of the alternatives have been explored yet! You can give people jobs other ways. Begin with employing enforcement for Rev and Tax. Do floor audits of stores and monitor the transactions in the tourist agent industry.

To the people of the CNMI, speak up if you think something is wrong. You do not have to put it in the public eye like the newspaper. Call or write to your elected representative to tell them how you want to be represented. Or better yet, go to their house and visit them like they came to you and tell them. We elected them to represent and make decisions that would be in the best interest of the whole community. Which community do you want to live in?

Leila Staffler
Kagman II, Saipan

Hiring practices

This is in response to Frederick A. Proser's letter to the editor (Let's tell the truth," *Saipan Tribune*, Sept. 03, 2010). We laud you for having the tenacity to pry into the CNMI government's hiring practices. It is hard for us to write what you had written because many elected officials are our close relatives and it is given that we do not attack them or discredit them.

We would like to add to your comment that such hiring practices are the norm for the Mariana island chain and it would continue into the future. If you can request for the entire budget for one fiscal year and you take the time to analyze it, you would find out that the sitting governor has control of millions of dollars in ungraded FTE (full-time employees) accounts (Management & Budget, Office of Personnel Management, DCCA, etc.). These accounts are under his jurisdiction and he has the power to manipulate such accounts. In our lives, money means power and the sitting governor has control of millions of dollars, which equate to power.

Many of us left our dear island to invest in our education. We foresaw that without our advanced degrees we would not survive in the CNMI and some of us are working toward our graduate degrees. Don't be disappointed that we are leaving our islands because, one day in the near future, we would be heading home and some of us would be entering the political arena to attempt to make changes.

As to your question: "All this hiring took place with a hiring freeze in place. Where was the Legislature? Why did they not step in and say 'no' to all the hiring? Are they all just as crooked?" Remember that the sitting governor has millions of dollars in ungraded FTEs; the I-scratch-your-back-and-you-scratch-mine concept is being implemented. The Legislature needs some of those ungraded positions for their friends and *familia* in order to continue with their political careers. It would be political suicide for the Legislature to go against the sitting governor. In our opinion, there is no way out of such practices, because giving employments to close relatives is common practice for generations. The only way out is to put a stop to it by having outside intervention. Outside intervention would come from the federal government by giving contract workers in the CNMI the opportunities to become U.S. citizens. Such a radical move by the feds would put a stop to our way of doing politics in the CNMI, better known as corruption. If the island chain is afforded such an opportunity, our Legislature would become diverse and corruptions will be minimized within our local government.

So, if you would like changes within our society, we advise you to contact your friends and families in the United States; ask them to encourage their U.S. congressional members in their districts to support the Department of the Interior's recommendation to give our fellow brothers and sisters in the CNMI U.S. citizenships. You would be doing our future generations a favor.

The sitting governor has such immense power that he can pardon a convicted murderer. Recalling our present governor is next to impossible and we should channel our energy into convincing the U.S. Congress to give our brothers and sisters U.S. citizenship in the CNMI.

Segundo Castro
Stockton, CA

Spanish lessons

I remember those black and white Saturday afternoon movies at the local theater with a masked man astride his white horse rearing up on two hind legs, hat held in hand and waving in the sunset, "High ho Silver, adios muchacho." Or was it Gene Autry or Roy? "Dadgumit"—as bearded, toothless Gabby Hayes would say—I thought I was learning Spanish.

Bill Stewart
via email

Biba senators

I wish to congratulate and thank the seven members of our Legislature who voted no to casinos on Saipan for they truly represent and respect the will of the people of the Commonwealth. Biba to all of you senators for a job well done!

Gregrorio Cruz
Papago, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

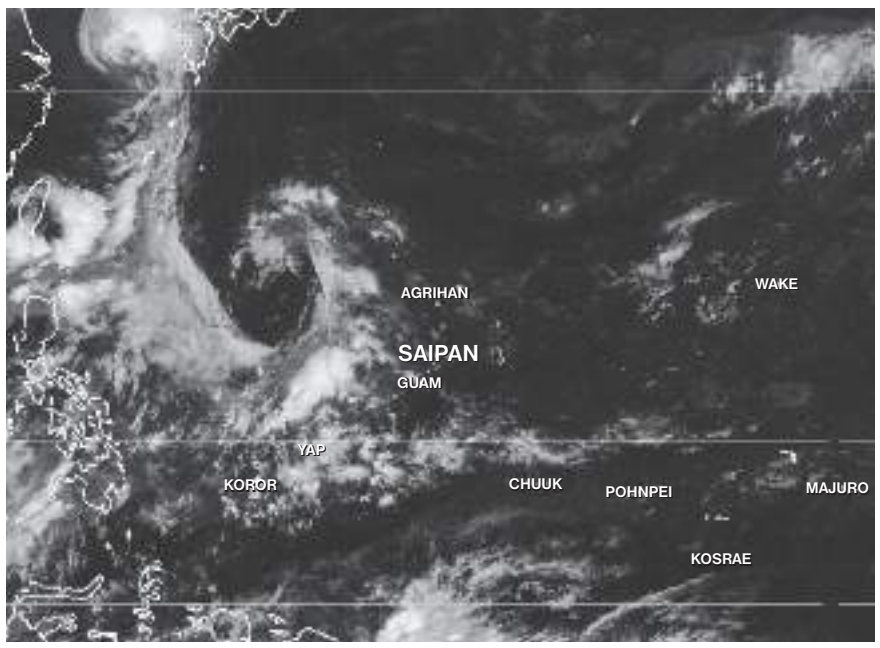
Auckland	Rain	▲60	▼53
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲82	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼74
London	Rain	▲66	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼46
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲82	▼62
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲91	▼82
Paris	Rain	▲70	▼57
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼75
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼68
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼57
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼70
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲92	▼79
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲86	▼65

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Upper-level divergence near an upper low centered near 18N137E northwest of the Marianas is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 120 miles of a line extending from 11N134E to 16N140E to 20N141E ending at 22N136E. An upper low northwest of Wake Island near 21N163E is producing a few showers and thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line extending northeastward from 20N158E to 23N162E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Yap and east of Koror within 150 miles of a line extending from 7N136E to 10N151E. Widely-scattered showers extend eastward across the northern Marshalls toward the dateline within 175 miles of a line extending from 6N164E to 8N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:28 AM	5:17 PM
Wednesday	5:30 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	7:32 AM	7:36 PM
Saturday	8:33 AM	8:24 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

China vows to boost imports, help world recovery

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese official defended the country's trade record Monday as a top economic adviser to President Barack Obama visited Beijing amid renewed pressure by American lawmakers over Chinese currency controls.

China's deputy trade envoy, Chong Quan, rejected complaints that Beijing intentionally boosts its trade surplus by promoting exports while holding down imports. Speaking at a trade forum, Chong repeated promises to boost imports of resources and high-tech equipment and to ease costs for importers but announced no new initiatives.

"This criticism is unfounded," Chong said. "China, in its own actions, makes its due contribution to the world's economic development."

Chong spoke as U.S. National Economic Council Director Larry Summers was in Beijing to meet China's top trade official, Vice Premier Wang Qishan. No agenda was announced, but their talks were likely to include U.S. complaints that a weak yuan gives Chinese exporters an unfair price advantage.

AP

Attendees stand at the start of a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, in Shenzhen city, south China's Guangdong province, Monday, Sept. 6, 2010.

China's trade surplus widened in July to an 18-month high of $28.7 billion as imports weakened. That helped to fuel complaints by some American lawmakers who want Beijing to allow the yuan to rise or face possible trade sanctions.

American lawmakers set aside criticism of China's trade policy while the two governments worked together to end the global crisis. But pressure has resumed as the crisis fades and American leaders face pressure to create jobs.

In June, Beijing ended an 18-month-old link between the yuan and the dollar and said it would allow a more flexible exchange rate, but the Chinese currency has risen by only 0.6 percent since then. The U.S. Commerce Department in August declined to launch an investigation of the currency complaints despite requests by some lawmakers.

American legislators have scheduled two congressional hearings this month on China's currency and possible retaliatory measures.

"The House leadership has expressed interest in seeing measures passed. So that's a very real risk," said John Frisbie, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, on Friday during a visit to Beijing. The group represents 250 American companies that do business with China.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Afghan Central Bank: Kabul Bank has 'stabilized'

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's largest bank remained solvent Sunday after a nearly weeklong run on the troubled institution, according to the governor of the nation's central bank, which is being criticized for looking the other way at the bank's mismanagement problems for too long. Nervous depositors continued to make withdrawals, but Central Bank Governor Abdul Qadir Fitrat said the Kabul Bank was on sound footing. He said no decision had been made about whether the central bank would use money in its coffers to shore up Kabul Bank, partly owned by President Hamid Karzai's brother. "It's stabilized. The bank is already stabilized and hopefully in the next few days it will become 100 percent normal," Fitrat told The Associated Press. "It is almost 60 percent to 70 percent returned to normal. Most of the branches are now empty (of customers). People have taken their money and gone home. It's very good today. The operation is becoming very normal."

Official: Obama backing research tax credits

WASHINGTON (AP)—Seeking ways to spur economic growth ahead of the November elections, President Barack Obama will ask Congress to increase and permanently extend research and development tax credits for businesses, a White House official said Sunday. Obama will outline the $100 billion proposal during a speech on the economy Wednesday in Cleveland, the official said. The announcement is expected to be the first in a series of new measures Obama will propose this fall as the administration looks to jump-start an economy that the president himself has said isn't growing fast enough. In addition to making the research credits permanent, Obama will also ask Congress to extend one of the credit options available to businesses from 14 to 17 percent, according to the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the proposal has not been formally announced.

Attorney: JetBlue attendant in NYC flap resigned

NEW YORK (AP)—A flight attendant who captured America's attention when he told off a plane full of passengers and then slid down an emergency chute resigned from his job last week and wasn't fired, his lawyer said Sunday. Steven Slater left the job at JetBlue Airways Corp. on Wednesday, after he had been suspended following the on-board antics he was charged with committing last month, attorney Daniel J. Horwitz said. JetBlue had said Saturday that Slater was no longer an employee but didn't give any details, which prompted online speculation he had been fired. Horwitz said he and Slater were still working out some details with the Queens-based airline but wouldn't elaborate. "He was not fired," Horwitz said bluntly.

Taiwan's HTC: iPhone's 'quiet' challenger

BEIJING (AP)—East Asia is the world's electronics factory, yet unless they are Japanese, producers are largely anonymous. Now HTC Corp., a Taiwanese maker of smart phones, is moving out of the shadows and trying to establish its own brand name as it competes with Apple's iPhone.

HTC supplies U.S. carriers Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile but says a year ago only one in 10 Americans knew its name. With the help of marketing by cellular carriers and HTC's own television ads during the baseball World Series, HTC says that number is up to 40 percent.

"We want to be one of the leaders," said John Wang, the 13-year-old company's chief marketing officer.

In trying to establish a global brand, HTC is following in the footsteps of another Taiwanese company, Acer Inc., which is battling Dell Inc. for the title of second-largest personal computer maker. Other rising Taiwanese technology names include software producer Trend Micro Inc. and Asustek Computer Inc., a maker of PCs and cell phones.

AP

In this July 27, 2010 file photo, Peter Chou, chief executive officer of Taiwan's High Tech Computer Corp., or HTC Corp., talks about the introduction of the brand into China's market during a press conference held in Beijing, China.

HTC's path to its own brand has been complicated by U.S. carriers' preference for many years to market its phones under their own brands.

That started to change in 2007, and the "HTC" brand started showing up on phones, as carriers figured that the company had some cachet among early adopters that they could capitalize on. HTC phones on the U.S. market include the Droid Incredible, sold by Verizon Wireless, the HD2, sold by T-Mobile USA, and the Hero, sold by Sprint Nextel Corp.

Even now, HTC is careful to avoid straining ties with carriers by promoting its own identity too aggressively. Such ties are crucial in the United States, Japan and other markets where carriers usually pick which phones to offer. In Europe and elsewhere, customers pick their own phones and buy service separately.

"I don't think it should ever become a 'destination phone,' because that is very arrogant," Wang said.

The company's slogan, "Quietly Brilliant," expresses both modesty and pride.

Apple, of course, is anything but quiet, and HTC sets itself apart from the U.S.-based giant in other ways, too.

In contrast to lookalike iPhones, HTC tries to make handsets for every taste, some with slide-out keyboards, others with touch screens. While Apple has its own online store, HTC focuses on phones while carriers pick which music and applications to offer.

1 'censored' bar won't stop online prostitution

NEW YORK (AP)—Craigslist's "adult services" section has been shut down in the U.S., but prostitution on the Internet is alive and well—even, quite possibly, on Craigslist.

Users of the website and its CEO grouse that the Internet is still full of sites where people can find prostitutes. As for the massive online classifieds site itself, many personal ads, which remain on the site, appear to be thinly veiled solicitations of sex for sale.

State attorneys general had pressed Craigslist to do more to block potentially illegal ads promoting prostitution, and hailed the company's decision to take down its adult services section on Saturday. But like other illegal online activities targeted with prosecution or lawsuits, including gambling, child pornography and unauthorized music downloads, shutting down one outlet simply sends many users running to others.

John Palfrey, a Harvard University law professor and co-director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society, said the move from Craigslist was still a victory because it moved the ads off a highly visible location.

"Will people be able to find these ads online? The answer is almost certainly," he said. "Will they be able to find these on legitimate sites? I think the answer is probably not."

It's unclear if the shutdown is permanent. A black bar reading "censored" remained in place on the company's U.S. pages late Sunday. Erotic services ads on non-U.S. sites were still active.

Neither Craigslist CEO Jim Buckmaster nor a company spokeswoman responded to e-mails and phone calls seeking comment on Sunday. The company previously said it would issue a statement on the matter, without saying when.

Nation

9 years gone, everyone's a ground zero stakeholder

NEW YORK (AP)—It is a place of sacrifice. A place of mourning. A place people pass by on their way to grab lunch. It's a place where tourists crane their necks to snatch a glimpse around barriers walling off an enormous construction site—which is also what it is.

Ground zero.

Depending on whom you talk to, it's a scar on this city where horror still lingers, a bustling hive symbolizing the resilience of a nation, or simply, for those who live and work nearby, a place where life goes on.

In recent weeks, as debate has raged over the placement of a planned Islamic cultural center and mosque a couple of blocks from the construction, Americans have been reminded of just how many people lay claim to this place, the focal point for all those who have a stake in the legacy of Sept. 11.

Almost everyone has a stake.

Gesturing at the land he helped clear in the weeks after 9/11, Louis Pabon believes he knows who owns it: "This is mine."

Today he is wearing his hard hat again, standing at the gates of St. Paul's Chapel, hawking the photos that he took of the wreckage. Tourists stop in the sun to look at the images of smoky desolation.

Take a walk around ground zero, and you can get lost in the throngs. Among the tourist crowds at St. Paul's, a block away, a woman sipping a strawberry smoothie walks past an altar covered with photos of the dead. Outside, beneath cranes that glint red in the sun, construction workers cluster. A woman in a business suit and white sneakers speeds down the sidewalk. Burger King is full, and at Century 21 department store, across from the construction, polo shirts are 85 percent off.

AP

This April 20, 2010 aerial photo shows the skyscrapers of lower Manhattan surrounding the World Trade Center site.

This place was once a giant plaza filled with businesspeople and tourists and shoppers and commuters rushing to the subway. Then, on one sunny September Tuesday in 2001, it became suddenly a place of history and loss. Within 24 hours, someone had dubbed it ground zero, and it was never the same.

After 9/11, there were weeks, and months, of coming to grips. Everyone had lost something. A child. An acquaintance. A skyline. A sense of safety. A center of business. A solid stock portfolio. A feeling that we knew where everything was heading.

The city's Muslims, many of them, lost a willingness to speak out. They had enjoyed a kind of anonymity—a knowledge that they were just another ingredient in the hearty stew of New York. But since Sept. 11, they have felt an unwanted spotlight, and some have been afraid.

"Now no one can talk about Islam ... because Islam became like equal to violence," says Noureddine Elberhoumi, a cab driver who says that after Sept. 11 he stopped volunteering information about his religious affiliation. "In their mind, Islam is always going back to Iraq, Afghanistan, 9/11—that's it."

In the days after the attacks, the nation was in a wrenching, gripping catharsis. We were mourning our dead. We were mourning the accustomed path, whatever it was, that had been ripped out from under us. We were on a new, uncertain course.

Before the week was out, the pastor at St. Paul's began calling the site of the devastation "sacred ground." On Sept. 20, Katie Couric told TV viewers it "should be hallowed." For the family members of more than 1,100 of the victims whose remains were never recovered, it is the only gravesite they have.

Backyard volunteers helping track firefly numbers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The yellow-green streaks of fireflies that bring a magical air to summer nights, inspire camp songs and often end up in jars in children's bedrooms may be flickering out in the nation's backyards as suburban sprawl encroaches on their habitats.

Scientists concerned by reports from the public that they are seeing fewer of the luminous insects each summer have turned to a network of backyard volunteers spanning much of the nation to track their range and numbers. Their observations may shed light on whether fireflies are indeed declining—a trend that could dwindle the targets for the childhood rite of passage of chasing fireflies.

As this weekend marks summer's unofficial end in America, the Firefly Watch volunteers' work is winding down now that the insects' annual light show is over in all but southern states.

Helen Mester of South Bend, Ind., is one of about 700 volunteers who entered observations this summer of firefly numbers, the color of their lights and flash patterns into the online database maintained by Firefly Watch, which is sponsored by the Boston Museum of Science.

The 54-year-old retiree has counted fireflies for three years for the program from her living room window or her deck, watching the lights that lead males to females for mating.

She's now adept at identifying a common Midwestern firefly often called the Big Dipper firefly by the upside down "J" light trail its males make as they flash by. She then watches for their female love interests to reply with two blinks from their perch on shrubs or trees.

"That's the female saying, `OK, here I am—come over here.' You can see the hook and then a couple of flashes. They're kind of a lime green," Mester said.

About 200 firefly species found east of the Rocky Mountains produce through a complex chemical reaction lights ranging from yellow-green, yellow-amber to a pale blue. Light-producing fireflies aren't found west of the Rockies.

Each of the light-producing beetle species has its own unique signaling pattern to attract mates, some blinking, others flickering with their light never turning off.

AP

In this one hour exposure photo taken June 22, 2009 and provided by Steve Irvine, fireflies fly in front of his home in Big Bay, Ontario in Canada.

Greenest state behind the waste-to-energy race

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Government officials from around the world used to come to this port city to catch a glimpse of the future: Two-story piles of trash would disappear into a furnace and eventually be transformed into electricity to power thousands of homes.

Nowadays, it's U.S. officials going to Canada, Japan and parts of Western Europe to see the latest advances.

The Long Beach plant, for all its promise when it began operations roughly 20 years ago, still churns out megawatts. But it is a relic, a symbol of how California, one of America's greenest states, fell behind other countries in the development of trash-to-energy technology.

"I am having a hard time explaining why California is so far behind," said Eugene Tseng Tseng, a University of California, Los Angeles law professor who spent the last three months leading delegations on overseas tours.

While so-called biorefineries have blossomed abroad, concerns that technique would undermine recycling efforts and create worse air pollution stalled efforts in California. With space for garbage dumps dwindling, proponents of a new breed of the technology hope to win over detractors.

Los Angeles County officials want to build three plants at a total cost of $200 million to demonstrate how far the technology has come as they scramble for alternatives to closing the world's largest landfill and shipping trash four hours by rail to an abandoned goldmine near the Mexico border.

ACROSS THE NATION

6 small earthquakes shake parts of Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—For the second time in less than a week, six small earthquakes have been recorded in a single day in central Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Geological Survey said the six earthquakes on Saturday ranged from preliminary magnitudes of 1.5 to 3.3. On Wednesday in the same area about 30 miles from Oklahoma City, geologists also recorded six earthquakes that ranged from a preliminary 1.8 magnitude to 3.1. Another quake with a preliminary magnitude of 2.7 was recorded Friday about 10 miles east of the Saturday temblors. No injuries or damage was reported from any of the earthquakes. Quakes of magnitude 2.5 to 3 are generally the smallest felt by people.

Video shows calm scene after Denver plane crash

DENVER (AP)—Newly released video shows firefighters arriving at the scene of a blazing plane crash at Denver International Airport and finding a calm scene. The video obtained by The Associated Press through an open records request shows flames shooting out of the plane with passengers calmly standing in the darkness in snow. The airport this week released the grainy video shot from the fire trucks arriving at the scene of the December 2008 crash of Continental Airlines Flight 1404. Federal investigators determined the plane went off the runway during takeoff after it was hit by a 52 mph gust of wind. The plane caught fire but all 110 passengers and five crew members managed to escape. Six people were seriously injured and dozens others were treated for minor injuries.

Evangelist preaches against Islam near 9/11 site

NEW YORK (AP)—An Internet evangelist from Florida has begun holding services near ground zero to preach against Islam as debate continues over plans for a nearby Muslim community center. Bill Keller has gained a following through his Liveprayer.com website, and has promised to establish a "9/11 Christian Center" to counter what he referred to Sunday as "the lies of Islam." Keller says developers have a right to build the Muslim center but the plan to locate it near the site of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks is "in poor taste." He began preaching Sunday at the New York Marriott Downtown Hotel, his temporary headquarters. His center is to open by Jan. 1. Early plans for the Islamic center call for a 500-seat auditorium, prayer space and Sept. 11 memorial.

Asia

NZ troops provide security in earthquake-hit city

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—Army troops took control of the center of the New Zealand city of Christchurch on Monday, two days after a powerful 7.1-magnitude earthquake smashed buildings and homes, wrecked roads and rail lines—but caused no loss of life.

Mayor Bob Parker extended a state of emergency for another two days as troops moved to help police secure streets and badly damaged businesses in the worst-hit central area of the city. The city center remained cordoned off, with only building and business owners allowed access.

At least 500 buildings, including 90 in the downtown area, were designated as destroyed by the quake that struck at 4:35 a.m. Saturday near the South Island city of 400,000 people. Most other buildings sustained only minor damage.

The quake cut power across the region, blocked roads with debris, and disrupted gas and water supplies, but Parker said services were being restored.

Power was back to 90 percent of the city and water supply had resumed for all but 15 to 20 percent of residents, he said. Portable toilets have been provided and tanks of fresh water placed around the city for residents.

Rain was falling Monday in the nearby Southern Alps and foothills, increasing the risk of flooding. Civil defense officials warned that stop banks, or flood protectors, weakened by the quake may fail to hold rising waters. Engineers were inspecting the banks Monday.

Around 150 people have been evacuated from a trailer park near the Waimakariri River as a precaution.

High winds overnight downed trees and power lines, knocking out power and blocking roads, but officials said it was not as severe as feared and no new serious damage had affected quake-hit buildings. Panes of glass were seen falling from damaged buildings and falling debris remained a concern, said police chief Superintendent Dave Cliff.

Only two serious injuries were reported from the quake as chimneys and walls of older buildings were reduced to rubble and crumbled to the ground. Prime Minister John Key said it was a miracle no one was killed.

Part of the reason the city escaped major injuries was because the quake happened before dawn, Key said.

"If this had happened five hours earlier or five hours later (when many more people were in the city), there would have been absolute carnage in terms of human life," he told TV One News.

Specialist engineering teams continued assessing damage to all central city buildings Monday. Schools across the region would remain closed for the next two days to allow time to check whether they were safe, civil defense officials said.

West of the city, where the quake epicenter was located, Agriculture Minister David Carter inspected ruined farm homesteads, damaged milking sheds and toppled grain silos. He warned that farmers faced damage to irrigation infrastructure.

"I guess it's hard to assess the extent of damage at this stage," Carter told reporters. "We drove past one house that looked absolutely unscathed ... I was informed that it has been absolutely condemned."

The country's Cabinet was meeting Monday to make initial decisions on assistance for the Christchurch region.

New Zealand sits above an area where two tectonic plates collide. The country records more than 14,000 earthquakes a year—but only about 150 are felt by residents. Fewer than 10 a year do any damage.

New Zealand's last major earthquake registered magnitude 7.8 and hit South Island's Fiordland region on July 16, 2009, moving the southern tip of the country 12 inches (30 centimeters) closer to Australia.

Council workers dig around earthquake affected water pipes to locate damaged areas in Christchurch, New Zealand, Monday, Sept. 6, 2010, after the city was hit by a 7.1-magnitude earthquake on Saturday, Sept. 4. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police say suicide attack in NW Pakistan kills 17

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber detonated a car in an alley behind a police station in a strategically vital town in northwest Pakistan on Monday, killing at least 17 police and civilians in an explosion that shattered the station and neighboring homes, police said. About 40 people were wounded in the attack in Lakki Marwat, which sits on the main road and rail link between Punjab Province, Pakistan's largest and most prosperous, and the North and South Waziristan tribal regions. A Pakistani army offensive pushed many militants out of South Waziristan in October. The militants still control much of North Waziristan, where U.S. drone aircraft have been conducting a campaign of targeted killings. Rescue workers and police officials were digging through rubble at the station in the town of Lakki Marwat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police official Ghulam Mohammad Khan said. Nine police officers, four adult civilians and four children going to school were slain in the attack.

Philippine police kill militant commander, 2 men

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police commandos killed an Abu Sayyaf commander linked to last year's kidnapping of Red Cross workers and gunned down two other militants in a clash in the south, officials said Sunday. Police went on full alert after the killings to guard against any retaliatory attacks. Gafur Jumdail and two of his men were killed late Saturday near Maimbung town on Jolo island after clashing with commandos tracking a Malaysian militant and allied Filipino fighters, Jolo police chief Senior Superintendent Joseph Ramac said. The death of Jumdail, who had been accused of several high-profile abductions including the January 2009 kidnappings of three Red Cross workers from Switzerland, Italy and the Philippines, is the latest blow to the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf.

Many desperate Pakistanis still wait for flood aid

DAIRA DINPANAH, Pakistan (AP)—Abdul Rehman and his family live under a tree next to a pile of rubble on a newly created island where his house used to be.

In the month since his home was destroyed in the raging floodwaters that inundated Pakistan, he has gotten no aid of any kind from the government or private aid groups to help him survive, he said.

Frustrated and desperate, he joined a protest with dozens of other villagers that blocked the main road in this area 10 days ago. In response, police opened a criminal investigation against him, he said. And he still hasn't gotten any food or even a tarp to shield his family of six from the blazing summer sun, he said.

More than 3 million people have yet to receive desperately needed food aid, according to the U.N., and the Pakistani government says nearly 1 million people have received no help of any sort.

"They need everything," said Ahmad Kamal, spokesman for Pakistan's disaster management agency, who appealed to international donors to send tents, ambulances, mobile clinics and hygiene kits.

The lack of aid has led to anger against an already-fragile government that is seen as a key U.S. ally in the battle against Islamic extremists along the frontier with Afghanistan.

The anger itself is hampering relief efforts, with the Red Cross twice halting distributions after being confronted by mobs of people upset they were not getting enough aid, the organization said Thursday.

Part of the problem is simply the scale of the crisis. The floods that began their slow wave of destruction across Pakistan at the end of July swamped as much as one-fifth of the country, leaving 8 million people dependent on aid, according to the U.N. And that number keeps growing as more areas are affected. "This seems to be a never-ending disaster," said Stacey Winston, a U.N. spokeswoman.

But many of those affected also blame the problem on corruption by local government officials, who steer aid to their supporters and withhold it from others.

Of the 32 families in Daira Dinpanah, about 90 miles (140 kilometers) west of the city of Multan, only seven who have ties to local political leaders have received aid of any kind, said Khalid Iqbal, 35, who stands on the side of the road clutching a list of all those needing assistance, waiting for an aid group to pass by.

NKorea's party members gathering for meeting

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's ruling communist party members gathered in Pyongyang ahead of their largest political conference in 30 years, state media reported Monday, amid predictions that leader Kim Jong Il would use the meeting to give a key ruling party position to one of his sons.

North Korea has said it will hold a rare Workers' Party conference early this month to elect new party leaders, sparking speculation that the event would be linked to Kim's moves to groom his third and youngest son—Kim Jong Un—as his successor. No exact date for the meeting has been provided.

On Monday, the North's main Rodong Sinmun said that local delegates to the meeting were gathering in Pyongyang for a meeting that it said would "mark a meaningful chapter in the history of our party."

"The people's hearts awaiting the revolutionary, festive occasion heat up due to their joy and happiness," the paper said in a lengthy commentary carried by the North's government-run Uriminzokkiri website.

It praised the Workers' Party for guiding the country to overcome many unspecified difficulties in the past, saying all the North Koreans must unite around the party to protect it. The commentary gave no details on what the latest party meeting will discuss.

China praises 'sound, stable' relationship with US

BEIJING (AP)—A top Communist Party official said Monday that China's relationship with the U.S. was "sound," but noted there were some difficulties earlier this year that leaders of the countries have pledged to overcome.

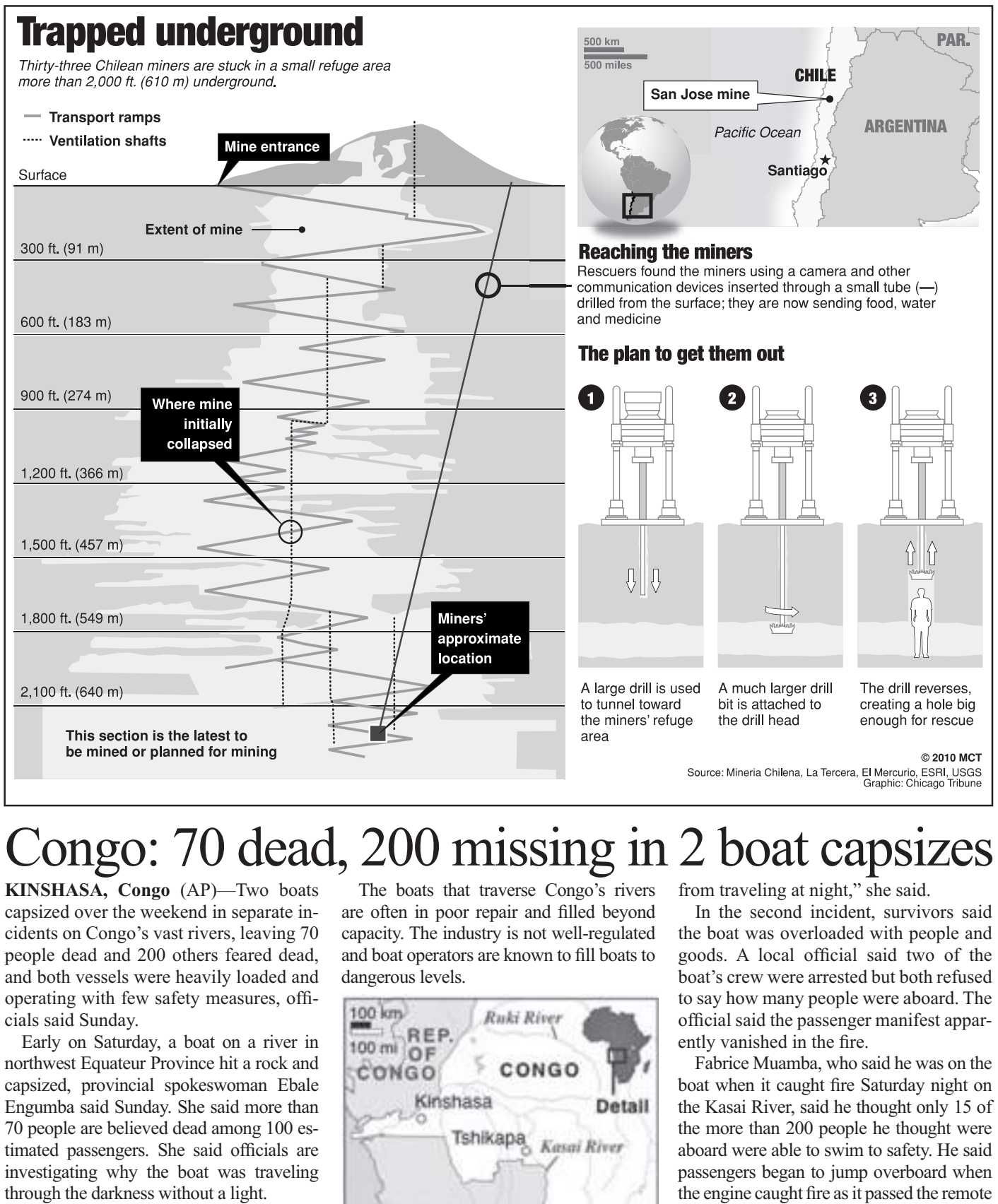
Li Yuanchao, who runs the party's organization department that controls senior appointments, made the remarks while receiving a U.S. delegation that includes National Economic Council Director Larry Summers and Deputy National Security Adviser Tom Donilon.

Meetings between officials from the world's two largest economies are likely to touch on thorny issues including China's currency policy, a lopsided trade surplus, arms sales to Taiwan and U.S. involvement over territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

"Although there were some disturbances in China-US relations, in April and May after President Obama and President Hu Jintao had two meetings, our relations have gotten back on a sound track," Li said. "The two heads of state have agreed to establish a positive, cooperative and comprehensive relationship for the 21st century."

World

Chile mine disaster exposes old family feuds


Trapped underground
Thirty-three Chilean miners are stuck in a small refuge area more than 2,000 ft. (610 m) underground.
Transport ramps
Ventilation shafts
Mine entrance
Surface
Extent of mine
300 ft. (91 m)
600 ft. (183 m)
900 ft. (274 m)
Where mine initially collapsed
1,200 ft. (366 m)
1,500 ft. (457 m)
1,800 ft. (549 m)
Miners' approximate location
2,100 ft. (640 m)
This section is the latest to be mined or planned for mining
500 km
500 miles
CHILE
San Jose mine
Pacific Ocean
ARGENTINA
PAR.
Santiago
Reaching the miners
Rescuers found the miners using a camera and other communication devices inserted through a small tube (—) drilled from the surface; they are now sending food, water and medicine
The plan to get them out
1
2
3
A large drill is used to tunnel toward the miners' refuge area
A much larger drill bit is attached to the drill head
The drill reverses, creating a hole big enough for rescue
© 2010 MCT
Source: Mineria Chilena, La Tercera, El Mercurio, ESRI, USGS
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—While a fire warms their campsite, the icy feeling between Cristina Nunez Macias and her mother-in-law is as palpable as the cold Atacama desert.

Both women are here to support the same man, 34-year-old Claudio Yanez, one of the 33 trapped miners in Northern Chile. But they barely acknowledge each other, thanks to wounds created many years ago, and have been fighting over who should get Yanez's salary and donations that have come from all over Chile.

"We have barely spoken in six years," said Macias. "And now she thinks the donations and help should go to her? No way."

The miners themselves passed the one-month mark underground on Sunday—apparently longer than any other trapped miners have ever had to endure—and they still face more weeks or months before rescue. The strain also has shaken the fault lines in their families above. Some squabble over who should get the miners' August wage, who should share in the donated food.

The local government has been forced to institute several measures: The miners were asked to send up a note designating who could get their $1,600 (800,000 peso) salary for August. There are separate bank accounts for each miner, which no family member can touch.

Social workers have been brought in to sort out who gets boxes of food, household cleaners and clothes donated by unions, companies and individuals—helping settle disputes among relatives of about half the families of the trapped men, said Pamela Leiva, the head social worker at the camp of relatives waiting near the mine.

"For each miner, sometimes there are as many as three families to consider," she said. "And to understand them, we have had to dig into the lives of the miners before the accident."

Those lives, just like lives the world over, can be complicated.

There are men who have been living with a partner for years while still formally married to a woman from whom they separated long ago, the result of a rigid divorce law. In a few cases, the legal wife of a miner has come forward looking for donations, said Leiva.

There are brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers on both sides of a miner who don't get along, or who depended on his salary to survive, meaning they can't just wait long months for their loved one to be rescued.

Congo: 70 dead, 200 missing in 2 boat capsizes

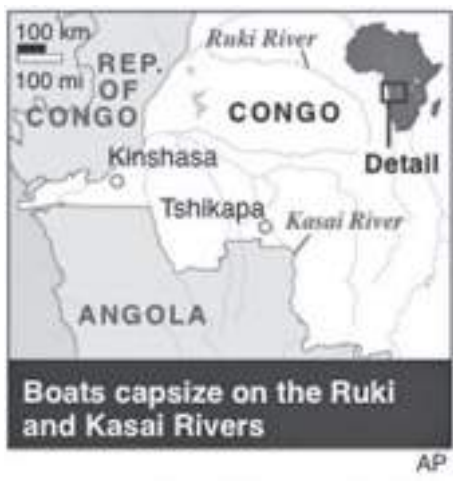
KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Two boats capsized over the weekend in separate incidents on Congo's vast rivers, leaving 70 people dead and 200 others feared dead, and both vessels were heavily loaded and operating with few safety measures, officials said Sunday.

Early on Saturday, a boat on a river in northwest Equateur Province hit a rock and capsized, provincial spokeswoman Ebale Engumba said Sunday. She said more than 70 people are believed dead among 100 estimated passengers. She said officials are investigating why the boat was traveling through the darkness without a light.

In a separate incident in Kasai Occidental Province, 200 people were feared dead after a boat loaded with passengers and fuel drums caught fire and capsized in southern Congo, a survivor said Sunday. Another survivor confirmed the account and said local fishermen refused to help drowning passengers who jumped off the crowded boat.

The incident in southern Congo would be the deadliest boat accident in the Central African nation this year, and among the worst in Africa this year.

The boats that traverse Congo's rivers are often in poor repair and filled beyond capacity. The industry is not well-regulated and boat operators are known to fill boats to dangerous levels.



In the first incident in northwest Congo, Engumba said officials think the boat's lack of lighting was responsible.

"We are going to arrest people involved who are in charge of regulating the boat's movement who failed to stop that boat from traveling at night," she said.

In the second incident, survivors said the boat was overloaded with people and goods. A local official said two of the boat's crew were arrested but both refused to say how many people were aboard. The official said the passenger manifest apparently vanished in the fire.

Fabrice Muamba, who said he was on the boat when it caught fire Saturday night on the Kasai River, said he thought only 15 of the more than 200 people he thought were aboard were able to swim to safety. He said passengers began to jump overboard when the engine caught fire as it passed the remote village of Mbendayi, some 45 miles (70 kilometers) from the town of Tshikapa, which is north of Congo's border with Angola.

Another survivor, a woman named Romaine Mishondo, said the boat was already packed with "hundreds" of passengers when it stopped some 10 minutes before the fire to pick up more people.

She said she did not know exactly how many people were aboard, but said the boat was so crowded it reminded her of "a whole market in the village full of people."

Despite formal combat end, US joins Baghdad battle

BAGHDAD (AP)—Days after the U.S. officially ended combat operations and touted Iraq's ability to defend itself, American troops found themselves battling heavily armed militants assaulting an Iraqi military headquarters in the center of Baghdad on Sunday. The fighting killed 12 people and wounded dozens.

It was the first exchange of fire involving U.S. troops in Baghdad since the Aug. 31 deadline for formally ending the combat mission, and it showed that American troops remaining in the country are still being drawn into the fighting.

The attack also made plain the kind of lapses in security that have left Iraqis wary of the U.S. drawdown and distrustful of the ability of Iraqi forces now taking up ultimate responsibility for protecting the country.

Sunday's hour-long assault was the second in as many weeks on the facility, the headquarters for the Iraqi Army's 11th Division, pointing to the failure of Iraqi forces to plug even the most obvious holes in their security.

Two of the four attackers even managed to fight their way inside the compound and were only killed after running out of ammunition and detonating explosives belts they were wearing.

The American troops who joined the fight and provided cover fire for Iraqi soldiers pursuing the attackers were based at the compound to train Iraqi forces, said U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Eric Bloom. Iraqi forces also requested help from U.S. helicopters, drones and explosives experts, he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Vatican: Stoning in Iran adultery case 'brutal'

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican raised the possibility Sunday of using behind-the-scenes diplomacy to try to save the life of an Iranian widow sentenced to be stoned for adultery. In its first public statement on the case, which has attracted worldwide attention the Vatican decried stoning as a particularly brutal form of capital punishment. Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said the Catholic church opposes the death penalty in general. It is unclear what chances any Vatican bid would have to persuade the Muslim nation to spare the woman's life. Brazil, which has friendly relations with Iran, was rebuffed when it offered her asylum.

Basque separatist group ETA announce cease-fire

MADRID (AP)—The armed Basque separatist group ETA, under pressure from political allies to renounce violence and decapitated repeatedly by the arrests of its leaders, announced another cease-fire Sunday, suggesting it might turn to a political process in its quest for an independent homeland. But the Basque regional government immediately dismissed the announcement as meaningless because ETA failed to renounce violence or announce its dissolution. "It's absolutely insufficient because it does not take into account what the vast majority of Basque society demands and requires from ETA, which is that it definitively abandon terrorist activity," Basque regional interior minister Rodolfo Ares said in the first official comment on the announcement. Spaniards also expressed skepticism, saying they had seen ETA cease-fires come and go before.

3 killed in suicide attack on Russian base

MAKHACHKALA, Russia (AP)—A suicide car-bomber killed three soldiers and wounded 32 others in an attack on a military base in Russia's violence-plagued republic of Dagestan on Sunday, officials said. The attack took place about 1 a.m. (2100 GMT Saturday) at the base in the city of Buinaksk, said Vyacheslav Gasanov, a spokesman for the republic's Interior Ministry. The driver of the explosives-laden small Zhiguli automobile smashed through a gate of the base and headed for an area where soldiers are quartered in tents, Gasanov said. But soldiers opened fire on him before he reached the center of the base. Gasanov said, the driver rammed the car into a military truck where it exploded.

Focus

Aging philanthropist is Pakistan's Mother Teresa

By CHRIS BRUMMITT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The aging man in mud-splattered, frayed clothes has barely lowered his body onto the sidewalk when the money starts piling up. Heeding his call for donations for flood victims, Pakistanis of all classes rush to hand over cash to Abdul Sattar Edhi, whose years of dedication to the poor have made him a national icon.

He thanks each donor, some of whom ask to have their photo taken next to him. Four hours later, the crowd remains—and the equivalent of $15,000 is overflowing from a pink basket in front of him.

Edhi has been helping the destitute and sick for more than 60 years, filling the hole left by a state that has largely neglected the welfare of its citizens. Part Mother Teresa, part Gandhi, with a touch of Marx, he is the face of humanitarianism in Pakistan.

Funded by donations from fellow citizens, his 250 centers across the country take in orphans, the mentally ill, unwanted newborns, drug addicts, the homeless, the sick and the aged. His fleet of ambulances picks up victims of terrorist bombings, gang shootings, car accidents and natural disasters.

Pakistan's corruption-riddled government acknowledges Edhi and other charities do the work that in other nations the state performs. The country has no national health service, insurance program or welfare system, and few state-run orphanages or old people's homes.

The foundation offers an alternative to charitable work performed by hardline Islamist groups in Pakistan, some with alleged links to terrorism. The spread of these organizations has triggered concerns in the West, including their work in the aftermath of this summer's floods.

Edhi is a devout Muslim, but critical of Islamic clerics in general, not just extremists. He says they focus on ritual, preaching hellfire and defending the faith against imagined enemies, rather than helping the poor—which he says should be the cornerstone of all faiths.

The 80-something Edhi—he and his children disagree on his exact age—lives with his wife, herself a charity worker, in a tiny room in one of his welfare centers in Karachi, a bustling port city. His bed is a one-inch thick mattress on a piece of wood.

"I am a beggar for the poor," he says, stained teeth showing in a wide smile, eyes sparkling after a week touring flood-hit areas. "Serving humanity is the biggest jihad. It is the real thing."

Edhi deals with birth and death, and almost everything in between.

Just above his bedroom, a maternity ward and an orphanage are home to 18 children, many of them abandoned by their mothers in cradles left outside his centers. They wear hand-me-downs from the city's rich. Edhi's wife, Bilquis, tries to get the children adopted, but few Pakistanis want to take girls or older children, she says.

On a recent afternoon, the kids shouted out English nursery rhymes and danced. They then sat cross-legged on the floor, drinking tea from plastic mugs and eating spicy pastries and sticky sweets that an anonymous benefactor had dropped off.

The home was clean and bright, with plenty of toys and loving staff. But there was no place to play outside, and the roar of motorbikes from the lanes below was a constant backdrop.

Across town, workers at the Edhi morgue were dealing with latest influx of bodies. They receive around 25 a day, half of which are never claimed—the city's unloved and unknown.

Working quickly but carefully, they cut the clothes from the bodies, lather them with a bar of soap from head to toe, rinse them with water from a jug, then wrap them in a white sheet. The bodies are bussed across town, prayed over and buried in unmarked graves.

The body of American journalist Daniel Pearl, killed by al-Qaida terrorists in Karachi in 2002, was picked up by an Edhi ambulance and taken to the morgue, the largest in the city of 14 million people.

The morgue is attached to a hospital for the homeless, a dispensary, a shelter for boys and women and children, even a wedding hall for the marriages arranged for children who have been looked after by the foundation. The smell of baking bread from an oven that churns out 9,000 loaves a day fills the air.

"The poor can come here and get a solution to all their problems," says Ejal Hassan Zaidi, who had accompanied a neighbor to the morgue to collect the body of his 3-year-old daughter, killed in a hit-and-run incident hours earlier. "From the cradle to the grave."

Born in what is now India, Edhi and his parents moved to Pakistan in 1947 when that country was created as a Muslim state at the end of British colonial rule. The family was quite well off—his father was a traveling salesman—and socially progressive.

In his biography, Edhi credits his mother for setting him on a humanitarian path. She urged him to give half his pocket money to someone poor every day and rebuked him if he didn't.

"'You have a selfish heart, one that has nothing to give,'" he remembers her saying. "'What kind of human being are you? Look at the greed in your eyes. Already you have started robbing the poor. How much more will you rob from them in your lifetime?"

When she was dying, he looked after her, bathing her emaciated body and washing and braiding her hair—experiences that would also shape his life.

"The first night she spent in the grave, I dedicated my life to the service of mankind," he says.

Edhi started small. In 1951, he bought an eight-foot-square shop in a slum neighborhood in Karachi that he converted into a dispensary. Seven years later he bought a van that he used as an ambulance, writing "Poor Man's Van" on both sides.

He became intimately involved in the business of caring for the sick and dying. He would drive the ambulance to the scene of an accident to pick up the bodies, administer injections during a flu outbreak and travel across the country to help after earthquakes and other natural disasters.

Edhi's record of round-the-clock service and frugal lifestyle attracted donations, and he soon had a fleet of 14 ambulances. In the 1980s and 90s, he opened centers and ambulance services throughout the country. He donated $200,000 to relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina, and his workers have also helped out in disasters in Asia and the Middle East.

Pakistanis are a generous people, required by their Muslim faith to give away 2.5 percent of their wealth each year. The last nationwide survey done in 1998 showed that Pakistanis gave the then equivalent of $820 million to charity, around the same as the government's health and education budget at the time. There are no numbers on how rising terrorism and a poor economy have affected this philanthropy.

Edhi does not accept donations from international organizations or governments, including Pakistan's, saying he doesn't need outside help and it is important for Pakistanis to help each other. He and his wife live simply of the interest from some savings.

The foundation does not produce detailed financial statements or annual reports. Edhi points to a wall of files in one office in which he says everything is accounted for. Donors do not seem to mind, such is their trust in him.

"You ask any Pakistani on the streets, Edhi is total credible with them," says Anjum Haque, the executive director of the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy. "The success of the trust is down to Edhi himself."

Last year, donations to Edhi-run charities totaled around $5 million, according to Faisal Edhi, the founder's son and trust member. A significant chunk of the funds comes from overseas Pakistanis, who want to donate to their homeland.

The lack of transparency has caused some concern among others in the charity sector in Pakistan. Faisal Edhi acknowledges that some of their 13,000 employees—who receive very modest salaries—might skim money off donations. There have also been questions raised about the lack of professionalism and efficiency, specially as the foundation has grown.

Edhi Village, a 65-acre complex in the undulating hills beyond the northern slums of Karachi, is home to 300 children, many picked up off the streets, and 900 adults, many elderly or suffering from mental disabilities.

Most wear clean, ironed clothes, and the food is fresh. Yet there are also signs of neglect. One naked youth dragged himself through a puddle. Some had no shoes and begged visitors to buy them a pair.

The adults live in rooms around the size of three tennis courts, bare except for raised sections for sleeping. They are locked inside for part of the day. There are two doctors, four nurses and two ward boys looking after them.

"We do the most we can do with our resources," says Bilal Mohammad, a regional Edhi manager. "They would be living on the pavement under the sky. We give them shelter, food and treatment. You must not see this place throughout Western eyes."

Edhi has made no secret of his dislike of Pakistan's ruling class. So it was a surprise to see a gaggle of politicians using one of his orphanages in Karachi as a venue to mark the recent birthday of President Asif Ali Zardari.

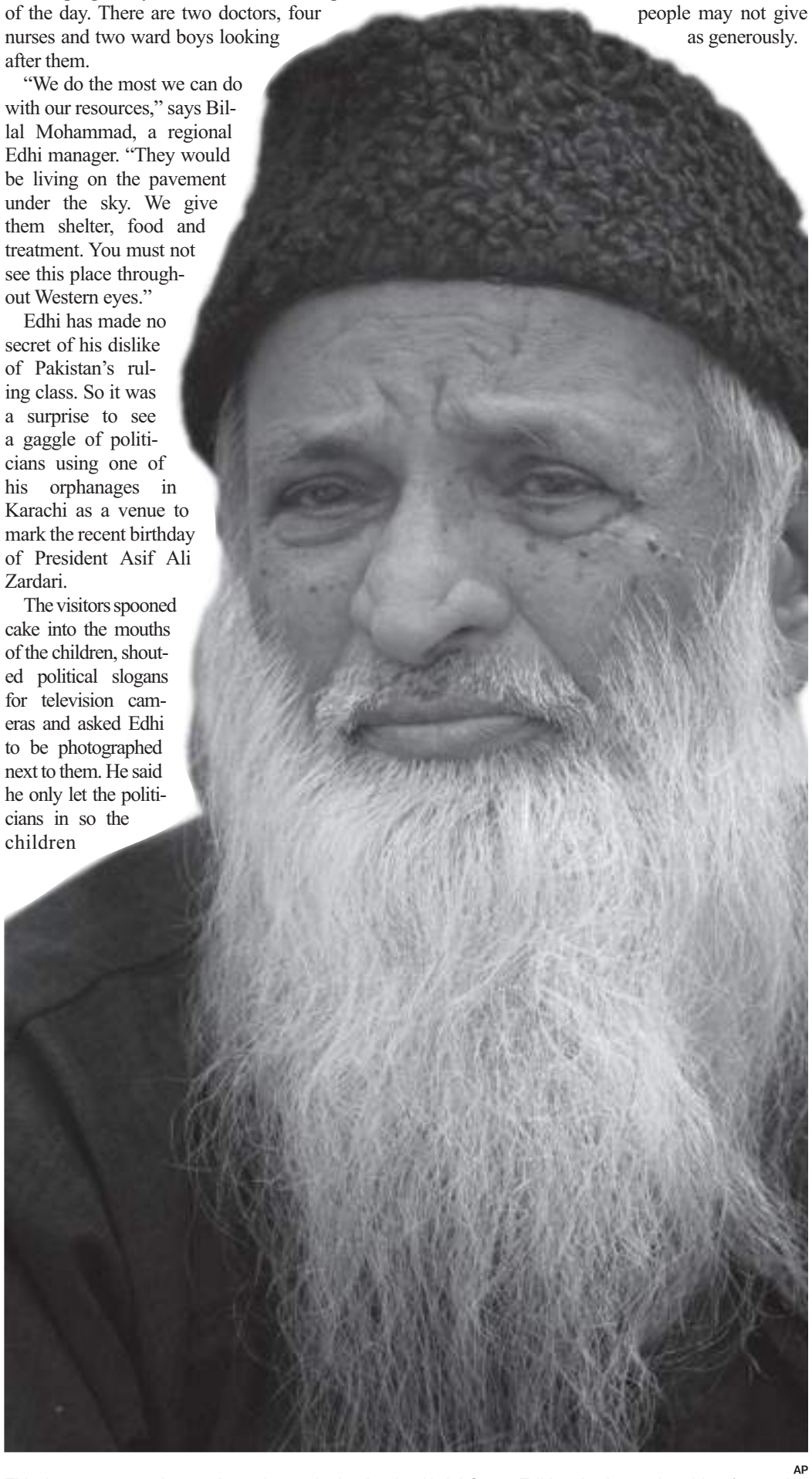
The visitors spooned cake into the mouths of the children, shouted political slogans for television cameras and asked Edhi to be photographed next to them. He said he only let the politicians in so the children would have a party to enjoy.

"So what if the politicians are using me? They even use God," said Edhi, who sat by himself for most of the event. "Landowners, clerics, politicians. They are all looters. There is no fear in telling the truth."

Hardline Islamist groups have criticized Edhi for his progressive views on women and the secular nature of his work. Some have said that by accepting newly born babies from unmarried mothers, he is promoting premarital sex.

"We meet them and we read their newspapers. They say we are non-Muslims, unbelievers and communists," says Faisal Edhi. "The jihadi groups don't like us. They don't believe in humanity."

There are questions about what will happen to the foundation when Edhi dies. He says his two sons and three daughters will take over, though without him at the helm, people may not give as generously.



AP

This Aug. 2, 2010 picture shows humanitarian leader Abdul Sattar Edhi as he its on the side of a road in Peshawar, Pakistan to collect money for flooding victims.

Overdrive

Redesigned Jett all grown up, ready for a family

MCT

The 2011 Jetta 2.9 inches longer than the 2010 model, and with a base price that now starts at under $16,000, it's cheaper by more than $1,000.

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

I've always liked—but never loved—the Volkswagen Jetta, though that may be changing for the all-new 2011 model. There's a definite attraction now, and we may turn out to be more than just friends.

The Jetta has long been regarded as a Volkswagen Golf or Rabbit with a trunk, but that does not at all apply to the 2011 Jetta. It's 2.9 inches longer than the 2010 model, and with a base price that now starts at under $16,000, it's cheaper by more than $1,000. The test car is a top-of-the-line SEL with almost all the available features. At over $23,000, it's no bargain, but it's still a very nice car.

With styling that looks as much like an Audi as it does VW, this new Jetta is closer to the larger Passat than ever before. In 2003, for example, the Jetta's wheelbase was just 98.9 inches, with an overall length of 172.3 inches. The 2003 Passat had a wheelbase of 106.4 inches, and a length of 185.2 inches.

The ever-growing 2011 Jetta has a wheelbase of 104.4 inches, and an overall length of 182.2 inches. Inside, this extra length results in startling rear-seat room: Four six-footers will fit just fine, and the rear-seat passengers have more legroom and headroom than in some full-sized cars. And there's still a very large trunk, easily accessed through a generous opening. If that isn't enough cargo space, the rear seats flip down separately. If a roomy interior is your central concern, the 2011 Jetta, which should be at your dealer within six weeks or so, should be at the top of your shopping list.

The new Jetta comes in four trim levels: The base S model has a 2.0-liter, 115-horsepower engine and a manual transmission. That's the $15,995 car, though you have to add $770 in shipping fees. But even at that price, it has air conditioning, power windows and locks, keyless entry, a four-speaker stereo with a CD player, plus six airbags, stability control and antilock brakes.

The SE adds the larger 2.5-liter, 170-horsepower engine, plus bigger tires and wheels, cruise control and reasonably convincing leather-like vinyl upholstery. The SEL comes with a navigation system, a trip computer; handsome 17-inch, 15-spoke alloy wheels, fog lights, a power sunroof and keyless push-button start. I could do without the push-button start—there's a black plastic plug where the key is inserted on the other models, and it just looks cheesy.

Later in the model year, there will be a diesel-powered TDI Jetta, which will have a 2.0-liter, 140-horsepower engine that VW says should average 42 mpg on the highway. It will start at $22,995. The test car, with six-speed automatic transmission, is EPA-rated at 24 mpg city, 31 mg highway.

The test SEL did not have an optional ($1,600) sport package that would have provided upgraded seats, pedals and a stiffer suspension, but I didn't miss it. Handling on winding roads is composed and predictable, and the ride is just excellent, even on potholed pavement. There's a little tire noise on porous road surfaces, but otherwise, it's a very quiet car. The 2.5-liter four-cylinder is unremarkable but competent, matched nicely to the six-speed automatic transmission.

So where did VW cut back to make a bigger car cheaper? A less expensive rear suspension, for one, plus cheaper trunk and hood supports. Rear brakes are drum, not disc, on the S and SE models. There's also a lot of plastic in the interior that has a low-bidder feel to it, but designers dressed it all up the best they could. All this is just fine on a car that starts at $16,000, but at $23,000-plus for the SEL—a price raised by $1,100 for the automatic transmission—it's less acceptable.

The 2011 Jetta is, for the first time in the model's history, big enough to serve as a genuine family car, but—at the base and near-base levels—cheap enough for first-time buyers. This car should be a hit.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: $15,995
Price as tested: $23,265
EPA rating: 24 miles per gallon city driving, 31 mpg highway
Engine: 2.5-liter, 170-horsepower four-cylinder
Transmission: six-speed automatic
Length: 182.2 inches
Wheelbase: 104.4 inches
Overview: Bigger and cheaper than last year, with family-car-sized interior space.

UNDER THE HOOD

Mysterious drop in mileage follows repairs

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I took in my 1999 Lincoln Town Car for a 90,000 mile servicing. I was told the car needed a new serpentine belt. It was replaced along with a tensioner and "kit-tension."

The computer readout was about 16 mpg before the belt replacement but abruptly fell to about 13 mpg. The dealer told me they did nothing to cause the sudden drop in gas use and replaced all spark plugs and #6 coil they diagnosed as the problem, at 90,907 miles. No change in computer readout gas mileage.

I hand-calculated mileage (change in odometer miles divided by gallons of gas to fill) over the next 1,232 miles and confirmed the loss as factual. The computer now reads at about 11 mpg, which I confirmed with one hand-calculation. All mileages were for city driving. Before returning to the dealer with my observations, I'd appreciate your opinion.—Bus in Baton Rouge, La.

ANSWER: This is a tough one. It's unlikely the belt and tensioner work would have an impact on fuel economy, but there's always the chance something was jostled a bit during the job and that's the cause of the Town Car drinking more fuel.

The coil replacement is also of interest. City driving is a real wild card when it comes to figuring gas mileage, as there can be many external factors to consider. Good job averaging many tanks of fuel for your calculations. Is your city driving truly identical to what it once was—no substantial changes in driving routes, weather, traffic, etc? And what about tire pressure, unusual cargo or dragging brakes?

Your 1999 Lincoln has the quite competent OBD-II diagnostic system, but it still may not be keen-eyed enough to see and report a minor range shift in a sensor, moderately excessive fuel pressure or a restricted exhaust system, as well as other difficult-to-identify faults.

Even though an increase in fuel consumption likely goes hand-in-hand with an increase in emissions, there needs to be a little wiggle room prior to the system illuminating the check engine light, or we'd all be bathed in yellow/orange light on a regular basis (the system's objective is to alert you when emissions are estimated to rise beyond 150 percent of normal).

A skillful tech should be able to spot an unusual PID (parameter ID—these are the techie readings obtained using a scan tool for each sensor and many engine operating conditions) and might also suggest performing an exhaust back-pressure test. I wonder if the faulty ignition coil may have resulted in sufficient misfiring to damage the catalytic converter?

Other things to check are an intake air restriction. Is there a critter nest in the air box or a dirty filter? Or look for a slight air injection system fault or exhaust leak, which allows air to enter the exhaust, fooling one or more oxygen sensors, so the managing computer calls for more fuel delivery. If this was an older vehicle with adjustable ignition timing, that would also be on the list; retarded timing or lack of proper spark advance decreases engine performance and fuel economy.

Finally, proper automatic transmission operation should also be checked. Should the 4R70W gearbox fail to find the correct gear for certain conditions or perhaps if the torque converter clutch isn't applying as it should, fuel economy would be affected.

This will be a challenge to find and fix. Ask for the sharpest tech they have. If the problem slipped under the OBD-II system's radar, it's a sneaky one.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Tires need heavy work before they're 'hot'

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Q: I had my car's oil changed and the mechanic tried to convince me to spend $54 to have my four tires and my spare filled with nitrogen, instead of air. They said nitrogen stays in the tire longer and isn't affected by temperature, and that race teams use it. I'm not a racer. Was I right to decline?—John

A: Proponents of using nitrogen—typically employees of companies that have invested in the machine that sucks all the air out of your tire, and replaces it with nitrogen—argue that nitrogen doesn't seep out of your tire as quickly as regular air. They also say that it doesn't contain moisture, which can affect tire pressure as the tire heats up and can degrade the inside of a tire and wheel, possibly causing oxidation.

All true, but is it worth $54? Not from what the experts say. True, oxygen does seep out of a tire more quickly than nitrogen. And ambient air does contain moisture; nitrogen doesn't. And yes, racers do use the more-predictable nitrogen, because as little as a half-pound difference in pressure can affect handling in a NASCAR or IndyCar racer.

But I've seen several auto dealers and tire stores that are offering nitrogen fills for free, as a little extra service to get you in the door, or keep you coming back. And for free, it's definitely worth the price.

■ ■ ■

QUESTION: In some commercials, Toyota is claiming to be spending $1 million an hour to make its vehicles safer. C'mon, really? Some, if not most, of that outlay has to be money the company is spending on its many recalls, don't you think? A million bucks an hour—$24 million a day, or $168 million a week—sounds awfully hyperbolic to me. —Joe Crews, DeLand, Fla.

ANSWER: Here's what the commercial says: "At Toyota, we care about your safety. That's why we're investing a million dollars every hour to improve our technology and your safety."

Note the word "technology"—Toyota says that "much" of that $1 million is spent on safety, but not all. And it does not include money spent on recalls.

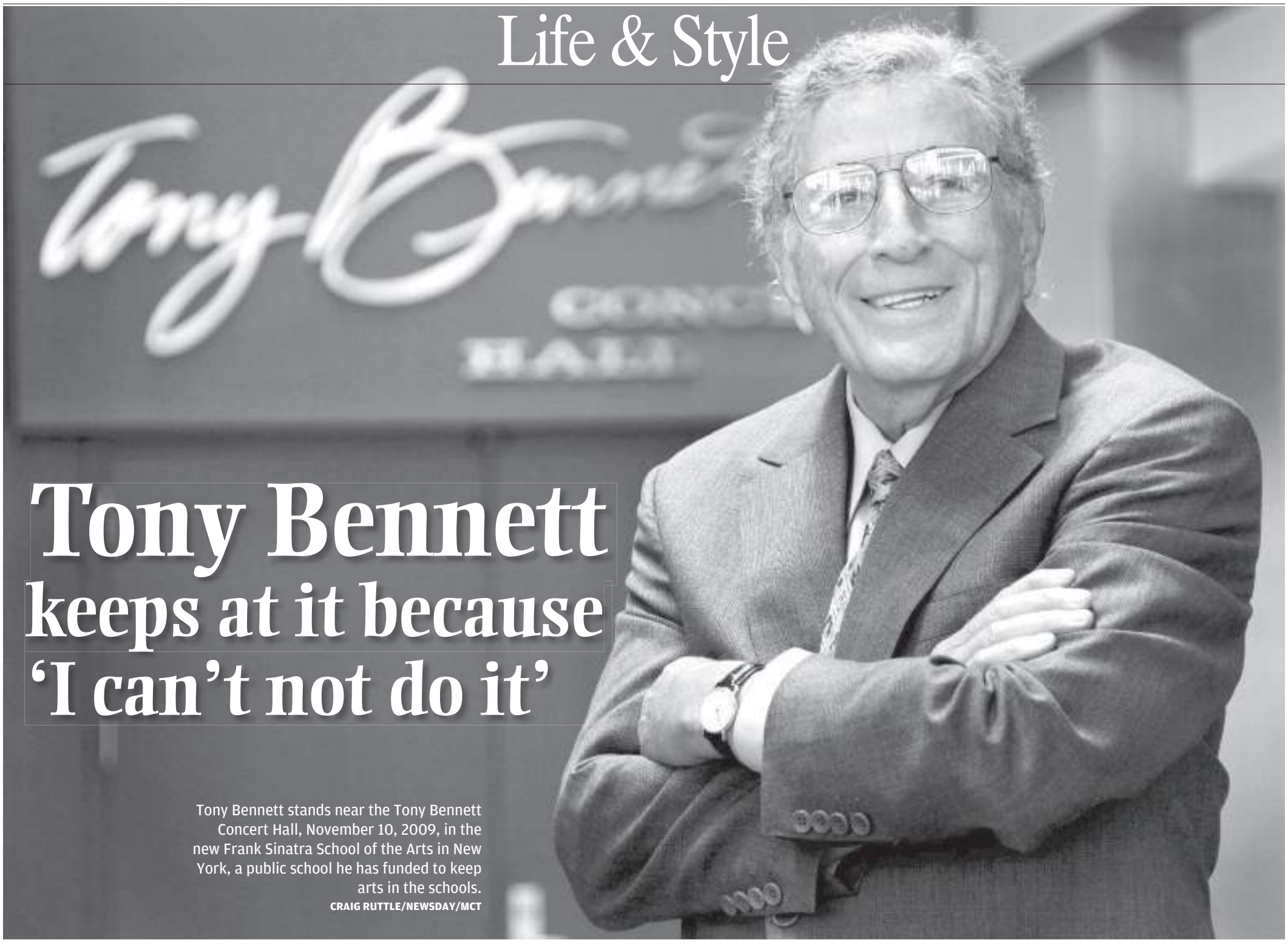
"Over the long term, Toyota has built a record of safety, reliability and quality that's unquestionably strong. And we've made significant changes at Toyota in the past several months to make sure we are an even more responsive, safety-focused organization," said Steve St. Angelo, chief quality officer for Toyota.

Bob Waltz, a Toyota vice president, said the company was the first to install as standard equipment what Toyota refers to as the Star Safety System—antilock brakes, electronic stability control, brake assist, electronic brake-force distribution and traction control.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

Life & Style

Tony Bennett keeps at it because 'I can't not do it'



Tony Bennett stands near the Tony Bennett Concert Hall, November 10, 2009, in the new Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in New York, a public school he has funded to keep arts in the schools.
CRAIG RUTTLE/NEWSDAY/MCT

By DAVID PATRICK STEARNS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

NEW YORK—On a rain-soaked Monday when the Manhattan monsoons robbed everybody of composure, Tony Bennett popped into his Central Park South studio, his natty sport coat and sockless shoes not looking in the least bit damp. Maybe the rain doesn't fall on him?

He certainly has enough inner sunshine these days to ward off rainy-day blues. The 84-year-old Bennett is still performing in the seventh decade of his career, not simply because he wants to sing but because "I can't not do it."

The velvet-voiced crooner of the 1950s and the high-energy jazz singer of the 1960s gave, in 2010, one of his more emphatic performances, recorded live in a new EP download from iTunes Festival London. The now-raspy Bennett voice extols the beauties of life in a manner that resembles oration as much as singing.

Applause doesn't give him a "mission accomplished" signal as much as it inspires him to do it again—to repeat the song's most climactic moments. Ella Fitzgerald, he recalls, had much the same attitude: "We couldn't wait to get in front of the audience and knock them out of their seats."

Life seems to be a series of simple truths for Bennett these days. In an hour-long interview, the Queens-raised Anthony Benedetto showed how he has emerged into his 80s without cynicism, despite the failed marriages, career dips and drug dependence that came with those 15 Grammy Awards.

Q: I love the moment in your concerts, usually near the end, when you sing without a microphone. How did you come to do that?

A: Years ago when New York cabdrivers were all philosophers, I had one guy, he had a Brooklyn accent, who said, "All you guys are a bunch of bums. You use microphones. I grew up in an era when Al Jolson and Ethel Merman used to hit the back wall with their voice." And that stayed with me. The microphone is almost like ... an invisible curtain between you and the audience. When you eliminate the microphone, the curtain disappears. It's like you're visiting something really personal.

Q: Often, late-in-life singers maintain their voices but lose their fire for performing. They seem bored. I can't imagine you falling into that.

A: You should never be bored. In the Italian-American neighborhood where I grew up, my siblings and I would entertain the family, and we were so young and cute that everybody loved us. That stayed with me the rest of my life. ... Frank Sinatra was a great friend of mine and he made me realize that instead of being frightened of audiences, that they will help you. If you're nervous ... and if you want to do it right, they'll support you. The old tradition that some audiences are cold is not true. That means the artist is cold. If the artist loves to perform and wants everybody to have a good time, the audience sees it right away. They know when you're first walking onstage.

Q: Pearl Bailey once told you that you'd need 10 years to learn just how to walk onstage.

A: When Rose Clooney and I first started happening, all of the great ones, like Jack Benny, Danny Kaye and Bob Hope, they said it's going to take six or seven years before you feel like a consummate performer. The audience teaches you every time you perform. When I walk off the stage, I'm thinking, "I should've left that out, or I should do more of that."

Q: How did you develop your singular jazz/pop singing style?

A: I was told not to imitate singers; then you'll only be part of the chorus. You have to imitate musicians. Find out how they're phrasing. I like Art Tatum. He was the most unbelievable piano player. Stan Getz had this honeyed sound. I put those two together and got my own style.

Q: From there, you dipped into film and musical theater, but generally stuck to the concerts and recordings. In the heyday of the TV variety show, I don't remember seeing you very often. Why is that?

A: When I lived in Los Angeles, Fred Astaire would come by to chat, and he told me something that changed my life completely. Don't make a move without care. You don't know how quickly you can find yourself in an alley and saying, "How the heck did we get here?" If something is not completely right, I just say that I'm busy. I won't make a move unless it's just right for the audience and the musicians I'm performing with.

Q: You've talked about the battles with Columbia recording executives from Mitch Miller to Clive Davis, who pushed you to record music you disliked.

A: Sometimes Mitch Miller would say, "You have to do this song!" And we'd battle about it. If it was real stupid I'd stay away from it. But every time I had a big million-seller, they'd say, "Record what you want." Then I would do the American songbook. It ended up that I created this vast catalog of the American songbook albums during the years, and they never went to No. 1, but those are the ones that are still selling.

Q: Somebody recently told me that you can't have a full creative life if you also have a drug habit. Did you witness a lot of that?

A: That's a big subject for me. As a young man, I started delving into drugs and if I had some marijuana or cocaine, I'd hide from everybody and sneak around. Jack Rollins, who handled Lenny Bruce years ago, said something that changed my life: He said that Lenny had sinned against his talent. I dropped everything. And I stopped at the right time.

Personal friends who had drug habits ... they were so damaged. You see pictures of Lenny Bruce and Judy Garland when they were young, and then later ... everything was wrinkled up and tired. All the energy had gone out of them. You finally get wasted.

The great Bill Evans was a genius of the piano. The most distinguished albums I ever made were with him. But it was a period in his life when his whole body would swell up and he had to lie down after playing a 20-minute set. Here was this handsome man, highly educated, very intellectual family ... I asked him if he ever thought of stopping and he said, "Tony, I wish that the minute I stuck a needle in my arm with heroin that somebody would've knocked me out so I would've never done it again."

Q: Did you seek outside help for your own habit?

A: I did it on my own. I had no withdrawal. I felt great right away.

Q: One of the great might-have-beens is a live album you made with Count Basie in Philadelphia. Any chance of that coming out?

A: We had a very ineffective producer and had to rerecord it in the studio. It wasn't the spirit of what happened in Philadelphia. It was a tremendous night.

Q: Any chance the original concert tapes still exist?

A: That's very possible, come to think of it. I'm going to try to look that up.

Q: What further recording plans do you have?

A: Stevie Wonder keeps telling audiences that he wants to do an album with me. He once received the highest honor in France and he only now got around to picking it up 30 years later, so he's a different kind of guy. Whenever it (the album) is, I'll welcome it. Everybody's reaction is "I can't wait to hear it."

Van Cliburn piano competition plays in documentary

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

AP
In this publicity image released by PBS, Van Cliburn, left, is shown one of two gold medal winners, Haochen Zhang of China, at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in May 2009 in Fort Worth, Texas.

NEW YORK (AP)—This isn't "American Idol." It's more like "Global Idols at the Ivories," a glorious mix of virtuosity and great music documenting 29 young pianists in their drive to win the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

The outcome of this 90-minute film, which aired on PBS this week, is hardly a secret, despite its coy title, "A Surprise in Texas." The contest, closely followed in classical music circles every four years, took place in May 2009.

But there will be no spoilers here. To approach the film unaware of who will win makes it even more delightful (although no viewer could resist feeling keyed up as those 29 players are narrowed to 12, then six, before the judges' final verdict).

The competition, unfolding over three weeks in Fort Worth, Texas, is captured in the film as a blend of its participants (representing 14 countries), the music they play, the jurors who measure their performances, and even the Texas hospitality of the host families that put them up.

At stake is the most prestigious prize in the piano world, as the film informs us at the outset. The stakes are high and, with this level of talent, the bar is even higher.

"When you have this clear understanding that you are blessed with talent that not many people around you have, then it's a not very comfortable life," says Eduard Kunz, a passionate young Russian. "It's not happiness at all."

But most of the contestants seem spared from that grade of torment.

Di Wu, who comes from China, says that when she performs a demanding, even unforgiving masterpiece, "I still like to preserve what's original in me, I guess," and chuckles.

A clear favorite from the start is Nobuyuki Tsujii, who has been blind since his birth in China.

He chooses a Beethoven sonata for one of his performances.

"Knowing that Beethoven overcame his own difficulties, becoming deaf, I felt that I could relate to some of that," he explains through a translator.

The competition, first held in 1962, honors pianist Van Cliburn. He's the musical genius who, in the deep freeze of the Cold War four years earlier, had won the first Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition in Moscow. He wowed the Soviets, gained worldwide celebrity and returned home a national hero of rock-star proportions. The lanky, fresh-faced Texas lad was just 23.

In "A Surprise in Texas," Cliburn's glow seems to infuse this new generation of musicians, but he is barely seen: only at the end, declaring the winners.

And, please note, he is not and has never been on the judging panel.

"Oh, no, no," he said with a disarming laugh during a recent phone interview. "I get too personally involved. I know what each person is going through. I couldn't. That would just kill me."

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Machete
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:40
Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Tues through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Danny Trejo, Robert DeNiro
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Robert Rodriguez makes good on expanding his Grindhouse fake trailer Machete into a feature film with this Overnight Productions picture. Danny Trejo will once again star as the knife-wielding vigilante who nearly dies in an assassination conspiracy, only to return later on and seek vengeance against those who wronged him. Robert De Niro, Lindsay Lohan, Jessica Alba, Steven Seagal, Don Johnson, and Jeff Fahey fill out the supporting cast.

Going The Distance
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday & Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Tues through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Drew Barrymore, Justin Long
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Drew Barrymore and Justin Long star as a couple who find their long-distance relationship wearing thin in this romantic comedy from director Nanette Burnstein. Geoff LaTulippe provides the screenplay for the New Line production.

★ ★ ★

The Last Exorcism
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:50
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Tues through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Patrick Fabian, Ashley Bell
Horror • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Disillusioned charlatan Reverend Cotton Marcus (Patrick Fabian) comes face to face with pure evil after recruiting a documentary film crew to capture the final exorcism of his career. For years Reverend Marcus has taken advantage of the faithful and desperate. Now it's time for him to finally come clean. Just as Reverend Marcus prepares to shoot the film that will set the record straight, he receives an urgent letter from a desperate farmer. The devil has taken possession of his beloved daughter Nell (Ashley Bell, and Reverend Marcus is their last hope for salvation.

Piranha
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Tues through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Elisabeth Shue, Adam Scott
Horror • Rated R

Vampires Suck
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:45
Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Tues through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Matt Lanter, Chris Riggi
Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Expendables
Friday 4:10 7:20 9:30
Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
Monday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Tues through Thurs 4:10 7:20
Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham
War • Rated R

The Other Guys
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
Monday 1:10 4:20 7:10
Tues through Thurs 4:20 7:10
Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Woo awarded Golden Lion for lifetime achievement

VENICE, Italy (AP) — John Woo built his reputation with stylish Hong Kong action thrillers, then moved to Hollywood where he directed such big-budget blockbusters as "Mission Impossible II."

The director is now preparing for a third phase of his career.

"I would like to be a bridge between the good things of the West and the East, so we can further our mutual knowledge and build a strong friendship," Woo said Friday.

Woo was awarded a Golden Lion award for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Film Festival, which recognized the director "as an innovator of the contemporary language of cinema" and for renewing action films by introducing extreme stylization.

Woo, 64, has directed more than 26 films in nearly 30 years, beginning his career in Hong Kong in the 1970s before moving to Hollywood in the 1990s. His U.S. feature debut in 1993 was "Hard Target" starring Jean-Claude Van Damme, and his first Hollywood hit was 1995's "Broken Arrow," with John Travolta and Christian Slater. "Mission Impossible II," starring Tom Cruise, grossed more than $1 billion worldwide.

Despite his filmmaking successes, Woo said he was shocked to be given a lifetime achievement award.

"I wouldn't say that I have much contributed to film society, even though I made several good films," Woo said.

Woo

Venice Film Festival director Marco Mueller, an Asian film expert, said Woo's films are "a perfect union of the China tradition and avant-garde filmmaking."

"I don't think we are bestowing an honor. I think it was here waiting for him," Mueller said.

Woo more recently has returned to Chinese filmmaking, directing the epic period war drama "Red Cliff," based on a war that took place in China in the 3rd Century.

Woo said it was about time to bring everything he learned over 16 years working in Hollywood, back to China.

"Right now, I am very happy to be making movies in China for various reasons, because we have a very old history and also a popular folklore that is different from what is known in abroad. I would like to work on films in the future that are more Chinese in nature, but without leaving Hollywood behind," Woo said.

Woo said he chose to make a historic drama like "Red Cliff" to try to help the world learn more about China.

"I have worked a lot abroad, and I find people in general don't know much about our history. People only know Kung-fu films," Woo said.

That's not to say he has left action films behind. He was presenting in Venice a new epic martial arts thriller, "Reign of Assassins," starring Michelle Yeoh, showing out of competition.

This was Woo's fourth time in Venice. He was the "godfather" of a section on Asian film in 2004, directed "All Invisible Children," which showed out of competition in 2006, and was the producer of "Blood Brothers," which showed in 2007.

Comedian Robert Schimmel dies after car accident

PHOENIX (AP)—Standup comic Robert Schimmel, a frequent guest on Howard Stern's radio show, has died after suffering serious injuries in a car accident. He was 60.

Schimmel's spokesman, Howard Bragman, said Schimmel died Friday evening in a Phoenix hospital.

Schimmel was a passenger Aug. 26 in a car driven by his 19-year-old daughter Aliyah. Bragman said Aliyah Schimmel swerved to avoid another car and the vehicle she was driving rolled to the side of the freeway. Bragman said she is hospitalized in stable condition.

Robert Schimmel lived in Scottsdale. The 60-year-old comedian has been a frequent guest on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and on Howard Stern's radio show. His 2008 memoir, "Cancer on $5 a Day," chronicles his battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Schimmel starred in a Fox sitcom that was picked up in 2000 but had to be canceled after he learned he had cancer and needed to begin chemotherapy immediately, according to his website.

The site says Schimmel more recently had a Showtime special called "Life Since Then" and was integrating his life's experiences with comedy to not only make audiences laugh but raise cancer awareness and hope.

The site also says the comedian learned a lot about "life, attitude and laughter" following his cancer fight and the loss of a child. He also had two failed marriages.

US woman devours 181 chicken wings in NY contest

By CRISTIAN SALAZAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The Black Widow of eating contests gobbled up nearly 181 chicken wings in 12 minutes, devouring the national championship record in Buffalo on Sunday.

"I'm so happy!" said Sonya Thomas, who ate 4.86 pounds (2.2 kilograms) of chicken wings to win the contest, besting world eating marvel Joey Chestnut at the ninth annual National Buffalo Wing Festival.

Buffalo, about 300 miles (480 kilometers) northwest of New York, is said to be the birthplace of the wings, typically fried and covered in tangy vinegar and hot sauce.

Chestnut, America's No. 1 professional eater, was favored to win Sunday's competition. He came in second after eating 169 chicken wings, or 4.55 pounds (2.06 kilograms).

This was the first time Thomas, of Alexandria, Virginia, and Chestnut, of San Jose, California, faced off in a chicken wing eating contest. They went at it "neck and neck," said Drew Cerza, the founder of the festival, which was inspired by the 2001 Bill Murray comedy "Osmosis Jones," about a compulsive eater.

AP
In this photo provided by National Buffalo Wing Festival, Sonya Thomas is proclaimed the winner at 2010 Wing Fest in Buffalo, N.Y, Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010.

"They pushed each other really hard," Cerza said. "Joey is so strong. He's got great jaw strength. But Sonya's so fast with the hand."

Thomas, who's 5 feet (1.52 meters) tall and weights 105 pounds (47.6 kilograms), calls herself the Black Widow because she often defeats bigger male competitors—Chestnut is 6-foot-2 (1.87-meter) and weights 230 pounds (104.3 kilograms)—in eating contests. She set the previous wings record in 2005, when she ate 174 in 12 minutes.

She also previously set eating records for oysters, hard-boiled eggs, cheesecake and jalapeno peppers. She won her first competitive eating event in 2003.

The sprightly 43-year-old said she owed Sunday's triumph to her fancy finger work.

"Sometimes if I try to chew too much I slow down," she said. "I used my hands more than the mouth."

During the public contest, in front of thousands of people, she twirled the wings in her small fingers while quickly tearing off the meat with her teeth and lips.

Her cheeks were covered in a sheen of orange Buffalo sauce by the end.

But she said she was still hungry afterward, calling the wings "an appetizer." About an hour later, she made a guest appearance in the Ridiculously Hot Buffalo Wing Eating Contest and ate 20 more.

"The hottest wings!" she said. "I had to drink a lot of water."

Iowa State carillon lets Lady Gaga hit chime

AMES, Iowa (AP)—An Iowa State University music professor says the Lady Gaga club anthem "Bad Romance" translates better than you might think into the 110-foot (33-meter) tall, organ-like instrument known as a carillon.

Video of the pop hit chiming across Iowa State's aim campus has racked up hundreds of thousands of views on YouTube. The Des Moines Register reported Friday that professor Tin-Shi Tam played it a week earlier after students started requesting it over the summer.

Tam gives daily lunchtime performances on the carillon during the school year, mostly folk songs and traditional arrangements. She sets aside Fridays for requests, and said some other recent favorites have been Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" and Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Duke's portrait shows Britain's queen at breakfast

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II is used to having her portrait painted—though rarely at breakfast, and by her husband.

An image of the British monarch at the breakfast table, painted by Prince Philip in 1965, is being made public as part of a book about royal portraiture.

"The Queen at Breakfast" shows Elizabeth seated at a table in a Windsor Castle dining room, reading a newspaper with a loaf of bread and jam jar in front of her.

The oil painting appears in the new book "The Royal Portrait: Image and Impact," which is published next week.

An image of the painting was released Saturday by the Royal Collection.

The 89-year-old Duke of Edinburgh, well known for his blunt-speaking and love of outdoor sports, is also an art collector and amateur painter.

AP
In this handout photo made available by the Royal Collection on Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010, portrait entitled The Queen at Breakfast, which was painted by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1965.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Appeals court rules for Eminem in royalty lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal appeals court has found Eminem's former production company is entitled to more money from downloads of the rapper's songs and ringtones. A federal jury last year had ruled against F.B.T. Productions LLC in its lawsuit against Universal Music Group seeking a greater share of revenue from downloads made between 2003 and 2008. But the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals found Friday that F.B.T.'s contract entitled Eminem and his producers to a 50-50 split with Universal for recordings licensed to digital distributors such as Apple Inc.'s iTunes. The record label had paid F.B.T. and Eminem 12 percent of sales, the agreed-upon rate for physical albums. F.B.T. discovered Eminem in 1995 before he signed in 1998 with Dr. Dre's Aftermath Records. Universal's Interscope Records distributes Aftermath recordings.

GM's Opel signs-up singer to boost brand image

BERLIN (AP) — General Motors' subsidiary Adam Opel GmbH says it has signed-up the winner of the European Song Contest as its new brand image. Opel spokesman Christof Birringer said Sunday singer Lena Meyer-Landrut, known as "Lena", was introduced as the new face for the company's cars during a surprise concert for some 20,000 people at Opel's open house event in Ruesselsheim near Frankfurt on Saturday. The 19-year-old German singer won the European Song Contest in May with her catchy pop song "Satellite".Alain Visser, Opel's head of sales and marketing, says her "youth and briskness suits our cars perfectly." Opel is eager to renew its brand image, which has suffered following GM's bankruptcy in 2009 and the ensuing uncertainty over the future of its European subsidiaries.

Friend is in the doghouse for usurping daughter's name

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My best friend of 30 years, "Andrea," and her husband decided not to have children. They are happy with their dogs and cats.

She recently adopted a 10-year-old rescue dog and changed the dog's name to "Monique." Abby, Monique is my daughter's name! When I asked Andrea why she changed the dog's name, she said it is because no one in her family has that name. I am hurt that she would name her dog after my daughter, her godchild—so much so that I no longer wish to speak to this woman. How do I get past this?

MONIQUE'S MOM IN COLORADO

DEAR M.M.: I understand your feelings, but I hate to see a friendship of 30 years go down in flames because of one (albeit huge) lapse of judgment on Andrea's part. It appears she just loved the name. Avoid having your daughter and her dog in the same room at the same time, and you'll spare both of them from confusion. And remember, your Monique will have the name much longer than the dog will. This, too, shall pass.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have an old friend, "Erika," who, when we were working together, was my superior. My problem is Erika will, from time to time, ask me questions seeming not to know anything about the subject. However, as I begin explaining whatever it is, she'll then say something that indicates she really is well-versed in the matter and knows more about it than I do.

I end up feeling blindsided, stupid, and like I have been set up. Why does she do this? And how can I avoid falling into this trap? Erika seems so sincere when she asks a question.

FALLING FOR IT IN DECATUR, ILL.

DEAR FALLING FOR IT: She may do it as a form of one-upmanship—or "asking questions" may be her way of making conversation. Because it makes you uncomfortable, ask her why she does it and, while you're at it, tell her how it makes you feel. If Erika cares about your feelings, she'll stop trying to one-up you. And if she doesn't, accept that you will either have to keep your guard up when you're with her, or limit the time you spend with her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I don't cry at funerals. I am a Christian with a deep conviction that the deceased is in a better place.

I have been criticized for not crying. My sister-in-law chided me about it at my father-in-law's funeral. He had been sick and in constant pain for 15 years and died in his 70s. I didn't cry because he had lived a long and happy life, and had been finally released from chronic pain.

How do I answer these criticisms? I have given the reasons I have given you, but no one wants to accept that response. I'm tired of being told how I "should" show emotion at a funeral. Is what I feel or show really anyone's business but my own?

STOIC IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR STOIC: No, it's not. And furthermore, funerals can be such wrenching events that sometimes emotions become mixed up and mourners—rather than crying—have been known to break into giggles and laughter. Because few people who have suffered a significant loss are at their best while they are grieving, please try to forgive these presumptuous individuals for their comments.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, HONEY, JUST GIVE ME A SECOND
GOOD MOM
UH-OH
IS THERE EVER SUCH A THING AS A GOOD UH-OH?
SURE. UH-OH, I ACCIDENTALLY LEAVE YOU FOR SOMEONE INSTEAD OF DAD
NOT IT SO NOT MUCH

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

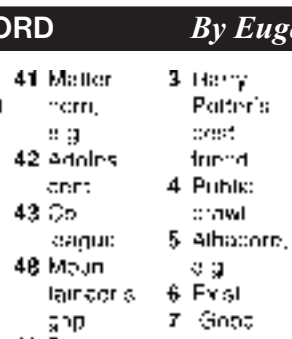
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

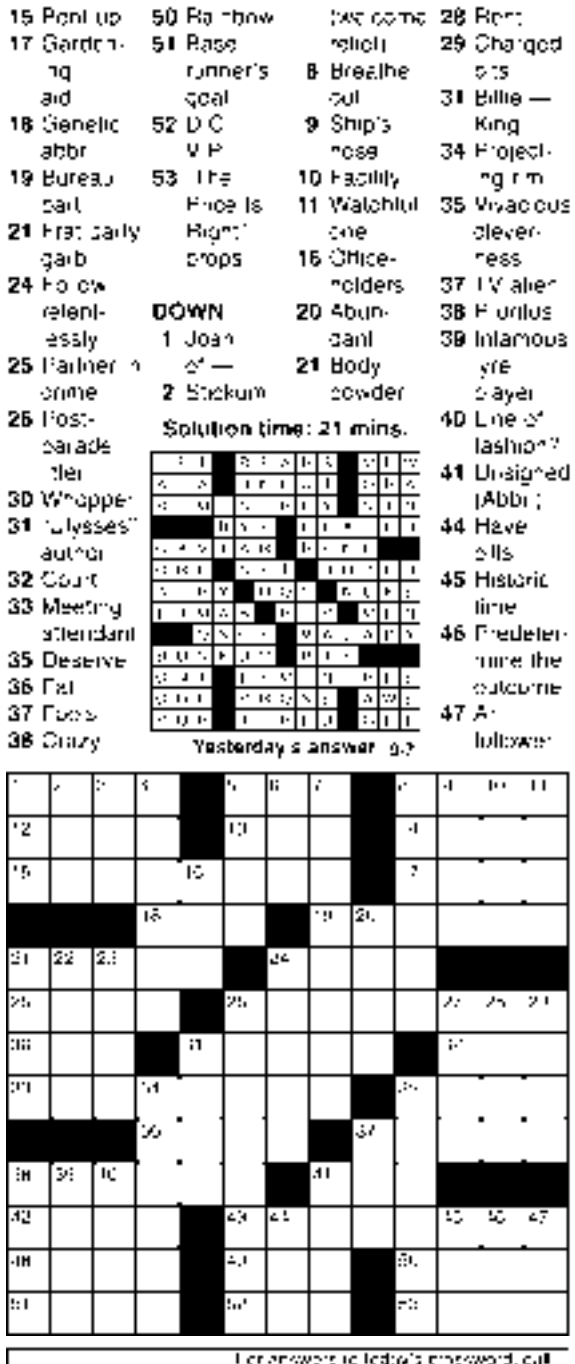
ACROSS
1 Taj Mahal city
5 Perch
8 Duct tool
12 Housecoat
13 Spoon sender Geller
14 MRI forerunner
15 Pent up
17 Garden-ing aid
18 Genetic abbr
19 Bureau part
21 Frat party garb
24 Pokes relentlessly
25 Partner in crime
26 Post-parade rider
30 Whopper
31 "Ulysses" author
32 Court
33 Meeting attendant
35 Deserve
36 Fat
37 Foxes
38 Crazy
41 Matter-horn, e.g.
42 Adores
43 Ox segment
48 Moun-taineer's gp.
49 Pair
50 Ra-how
51 Base runner's goal
52 D C V P
53 The Price Is Right props

DOWN
1 Joan of —
2 Stickum
3 Harry Potter's best friend
4 Public crawl
5 Alhaconn. e.g.
6 Feral
7 Goos-bumps come relish
8 Breathe out
9 Ship's nose
10 Facility
11 Watchful one
16 Office-holders
20 Abun-dant
21 Body powder
22 Hodge-podge
23 Singer Campbell
24 Tampered (with)
26 Fixes typos
27 the right before
28 Rent
29 Charged bits
31 Billie — King
34 Project-ing rim
35 Vivacious clever-ness
37 TV alien
38 Forulus
39 Infamous tyre player
40 Line of fashion?
41 Unsigned (Abbr.)
44 Have bills
45 Historic time
46 Predeter-mine the outcome
47 A follower

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5959! $99 for minute touch-tone-only phones. (18+ only. A King Features Service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Evan Rachel Wood, 23; Corbin Bernsen, 56; Julie Kavner, 60; Gloria Gaynor, 61

Happy Birthday: You will have greater insight into family situations. Your willingness to try doing things differently will be the key to professional stability. Don't limit what you can do because of extra responsibilities. Your ability to juggle and multitask will set you apart from the crowd. Your numbers are 7, 9, 13, 25, 29, 31, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Reach out with love and positive thoughts to the people around you and you will get the same in return. It will be necessary for you to take steps to stabilize your professional life. Networking with people with something to offer is a good place to start. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Getting involved in social settings will lead you to open your mind to new hobbies and friendships. Spend time learning, honing and developing your skills and you will impress others with the precision you possess. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): It's OK to go after what you want but don't expect everyone to agree with what you are doing. Love is in a high cycle but such matters must be dealt with appropriately or you will face opposition from someone important to you. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Honesty will be questioned and self-deception will be a problem. Face the facts and make decisions based on what you see. Blame has probably been put on the wrong individual. Don't ignore what needs to be done. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Let your thoughts and feelings be known and you will feel better and less stressed about what you need to do next. Love and romance are in a high cycle. Don't let someone else's doubt hold you back or slow you down. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll have a hard time dealing with emotional issues if you don't separate the way you feel from what must be done. Rely on someone who can guide you. There is plenty to gain if you focus and follow through. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A serious-minded attitude may seem depressing but it will help you accomplish what needs to be done. Buckle down and lend a helping hand where needed. Don't listen to anyone who isn't willing to stand by your side. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't share any uncertainty you have about getting things done. A positive attitude coupled with a good plan will pan out in the end. Job opportunities are highlighted. Follow your intuition. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Nothing will turn out to be as it appears. You may have a problem with communications, publishing or anything pertaining to travel and education. Taking on too much or overreacting will cost you personally and professionally. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Making money, cutting deals, taking care of pending legalities or focusing on your

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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health and well-being will all pay off. Don't let the people you love tie up your time or cause you to miss out on a chance to prosper. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): It's time to be honest with yourself and the people around you about your health, well-being and your feelings about someone. By not sharing, you will continue to spin your wheels and accomplish little. Turn the negatives you have been living with into a positive. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Work hard, play hard and enjoy the benefits that come along with living life to its fullest. Progressive thinking will help you win at the end of the day. A creative idea will spark interest in potential partners. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are willful and determined. You are sensitive and caring. You relentlessly go after your goals.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1		9	2					3
	8			4	5		1	
		3				5		8
	9							6
	1			5			4	
2							9	
9		2				7		
	3		9	2			8	
5					6	1		9

B Deadly Love ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	4	7	5	2	8	3	1
9	5	1	8	4	3	6	2	7
7	3	2	1	9	6	4	5	8
1	7	6	3	8	4	5	7	9
8	7	3	9	6	5	1	4	2
5	4	9	2	1	7	8	6	3
2	1	5	6	3	8	7	9	4
4	8	7	5	2	1	3	8	6
3	6	8	4	7	9	2	1	5

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID DUTTERER

Yesterday's Answer: Lawn

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WHATZIT Solution: Pin-striped suit

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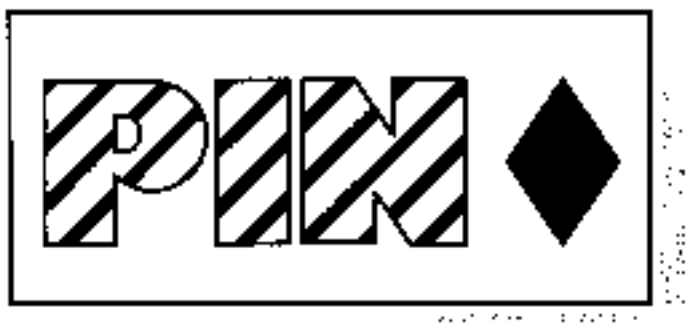


Find today's solution in this section

Querrey wins, hopes to put 'US' back in US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Sam Querrey wants to put the "U.S." back in the U.S. Open.

It's been seven years since a man from the United States won the country's most important tennis tournament. Indeed, it's been that long since an American man won any Grand Slam singles title.

Querrey is all-too-aware of such statistics—and the chatter about such droughts. Cheered on by a boisterous, partisan crowd, the 20th-seeded Querrey beat 14th-seeded Nicolas Almagro of Spain 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday to reach the fourth round at Flushing Meadows for the second time in three years.

"The average sports fan watches the Grand Slams, and they watch on Saturday and Sunday and the semis and the finals," said the 22-year-old Querrey, the youngest man left in the field. "That's what we need to do: We need to get some guys there."

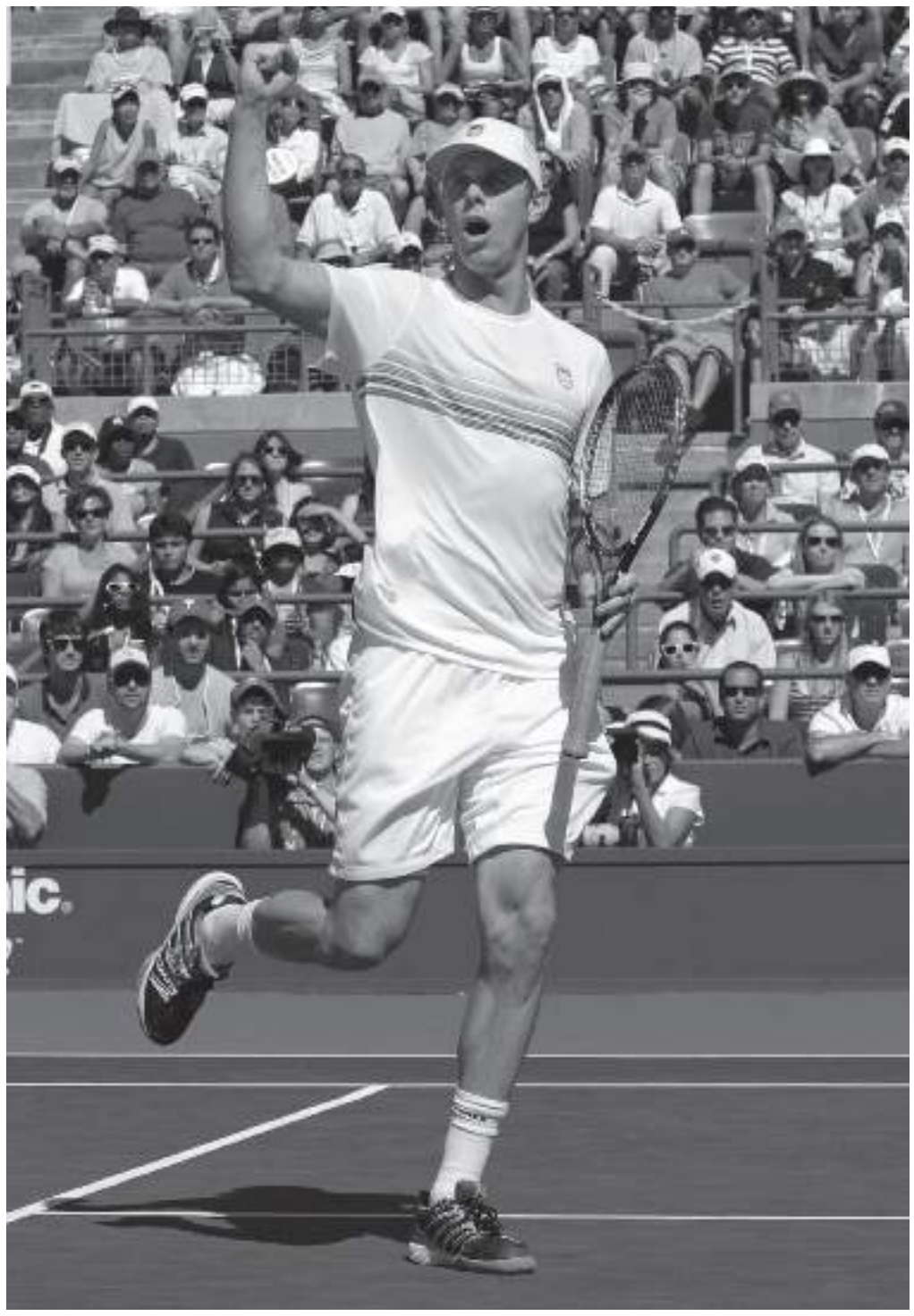
At the 2009 U.S. Open, zero U.S. men reached the quarterfinals for the first time in the history of an event that began in 1881. This time, of 15 Americans entered in the tournament, there are two who are still around for the fourth round—Querrey and No. 19 Mardy Fish—after No. 18 John Isner lost to No. 12 Mikhail Youzhny of Russia 6-4, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (5), 6-4 despite hitting 33 aces Sunday night.

Isner, best known for winning the longest match in tennis history at Wimbledon in June, got broken early in each of the first two sets, then was down 5-1 in the second, before making things interesting. But Youzhny came up with one of his five aces to end the third-set tiebreaker, then broke the 6-foot-9 Isner again early in the fourth. Youzhny heads to the U.S. Open's fourth round for the first time since he was a semifinalist in 2006.

Querrey never has been to the quarterfinals at a major tournament, nor has his next opponent, 25th-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland.

Wawrinka upset No. 4 Andy Murray of Britain 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-3 in the only significant surprise on a day that saw No. 1 Rafael Nadal and four other Spaniards advance: No. 8 Fernando Verdasco, No. 10 David Ferrer, No. 23 Feliciano Lopez, and unseeded Tommy Robredo.

"Probably the most difficult tournament for us, no?" Nadal said after beating Gilles Simon of France 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. "So that is very important news for Spanish tennis."



AP

Sam Querrey of the United States celebrates as he defeats Nicolas Almagro of Spain at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010.

Murray alone bears the burden of Britain's hopes for its first male Grand Slam champion since 1936. He was a popular pick to go far at Flushing Meadows; he was the runner-up at the 2008 U.S. Open and at this year's Australian Open, also on hard courts.

"I have no idea whether I'll win a Grand Slam or not. I want to. But if I never win one, then what? If I give 100 percent, try my best, physically work as hard as I can, practice as much as I can, then that's all I can do," said the 23-year-old Murray, who was treated by a trainer for leg and elbow issues. "It's something I would love to do. It's a very difficult thing. I don't know if I'll win a Grand Slam or not. But I'll give it my best shot."

He served poorly against Wawrinka, putting only half of his first serves in and getting broken eight times. Now Wawrinka will attempt to solve the serve of Querrey, who hit 19 aces at up to 137 mph and never was broken by Almagro.

"He's very dangerous on this surface," Almagro said. "He's in top form right now."

Fish won Saturday to earn a spot in the fourth round, where he will take on No. 3 Novak Djokovic of Serbia.

When Andy Roddick—the American who won the 2003 U.S. Open—briefly dropped to 11th in August, it was the first time since the rankings began in 1973 that there were no U.S. men in the top 10. That alone was enough to cue a new chorus of questions about the state of the game in a nation that produced Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe.

"I mean, you always hear that," said Querrey, who grew up in California but now lives in Las Vegas. "It's kind of like any sport. You've got waves where you'll have a group of Americans in the top 10; you might have a couple years where we don't. It's like with the Lakers: They'll win some championships, and (then) they won't make the playoffs. It's just like that."

With Sunday's five Spaniards joining No. 21 Albert Montanes, who won Saturday, that country has six members of the last 16—tying the record for a country other than the United States at the U.S. Open.

"It's always nice to see all the Spanish winning and being in the last rounds, no?" said Verdasco, who eliminated 2002 Wimbledon runner-up David Nalbandian of Argentina 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Ferrer beat Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-2; the opponents of Robredo and Lopez retired during their matches. The winners of Nadal vs. Lopez, and Ferrer vs. Verdasco will meet for a semifinal spot.

"I don't really care whom I'm playing against," Nadal said, "if they're all Spaniards."

There is only one American woman left, and it's seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams, who struggled with her serve and kept yanking at the hemline of her red, sequin-dotted dress but eventually solved 16th-seeded Shahar Peer 7-6 (3), 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals in New York for the 10th time.

Williams put 48 percent of her first serves in, and was broken three times. She wasted her first six set points in the opening tiebreaker. And yet she improved to 6-0 against Peer. Williams next faces reigning French Open champion Francesca Schiavone, a 6-3, 6-0 winner against 20th-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

Williams was the last woman to win the U.S. Open two years in a row, in 2000 and 2001, and defending champion Kim Clijsters is trying to match that feat. Clijsters easily got past former No. 1 and 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic 6-2, 6-1 Sunday.

Day gets his nose out front in Boston

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—The final hole gave Jason Day a one-shot lead in the Deutsche Bank Championship. The final hour gave him a good idea of what he might expect for the Labor Day finish.

Day walked off the 15th green with a three-shot lead Sunday, feeling good about separating himself from the field.

It was gone in two holes.

Then came the par-5 18th, where Day stood just off the back of the green in two as he watched Brandt Snedeker make a mess of the easiest hole on the TPC Boston by hitting his approach into the hazard and his fourth shot in deep grass short of the green.

"I was thinking that he was going to just get up-and-down and make bogey, and I was going to make an eagle or birdie," Day said. "That would have given me a nice little cushion going into tomorrow."

It just didn't work out that way.

Day capped off an exciting day with a routine birdie for a 5-under 66. In another strange twist Sunday, the largest cheer was for the guy who made par. Snedeker chipped in and shot 67, leaving him one shot behind.

"It would have been a tough way to end the day as well as I played coming in," Snedeker said.

Just like so many other times at this tournament, the Deutsche Bank Championship could be up for grabs.

And so could the No. 1 ranking.

Tiger Woods could only manage one birdie over the last 11 holes and shot a 2-under 69, leaving him tied for 23rd and 10 shots out of the lead. That set the stage for Phil Mickelson or Steve Stricker to end his five-year run atop the world ranking.

Stricker is closer to the lead. Mickelson has better odds.

Both of them might have a tough time catching up to Day, the 22-year-old Australian who won the Byron Nelson Championship in May and is starting to play his best golf during the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Day was at 17-under 196, matching the 54-hole record at the TPC Boston set by Mike Weir two years ago.

Luke Donald, winless on the PGA Tour in more than four years, was steady again in his first tournament since being picked for Europe's Ryder Cup team. He birdied the last hole for a 66 and was two shots behind.

Defending champion Stricker played his third straight round without a bogey for a 67 and was at 13-under 200 with Charley Hoffman (69).

Mickelson was in a group at 201 that included Geoff Ogilvy (65), who hasn't finished in the top 10 since winning the season-opening SBS Championship; and Adam Scott (65), who won the Deutsche Bank Championship in 2003.

Snedeker was three shots behind going to the 16th tee when he made consecutive birdies—Day three-putted the 16th—to share the lead. But the final hole—the easiest at the TPC Boston with a tail wind—nearly got him. He didn't hit enough club and went into the hazard, and after taking a penalty drop, his fourth shot barely cleared the hazard and stayed in the rough.

Snedeker set off one of the loudest cheers of the day when he chipped in to escape with par.

But this was a day for plenty of noise.

Vijay Singh made the rarest shot in golf—an albatross—when he holed a 5-iron from 229 yards on the par-5 second hole for a cheer that resounded across the front nine.

"I hit it just like I wanted to and was hoping it was going to get up on the green somewhere, and it went in the hole," said Singh, who had a 69 and was right on the bubble for getting into the third round next week at the BMW Championship.

It was the second straight year someone made an albatross on that hole, with John Senden doing it a year ago.

Mickelson felt like he was back in 2009, too.

A year ago on the 15th hole, facing a front left pin, he banged his approach off the flag and watched it roll off the green. He was determined not to let that happen again and said he told his caddie, "I'm going to try to just miss the pin."

He missed his mark—and hit the pin.

The ball spun around, caught the false front and rolled into the rough. Instead of getting mad, Mickelson got even. He chipped in for a birdie, and gave his biggest fist pump of the day.

"That was a fun little moment, because that stuff happens," Mickelson said.

This is the 10th tournament this year that Mickelson has had a mathematical chance of replacing Woods at No. 1 in the world, and one of his better chances. He was four shots behind going into the final round at Firestone and shot 78.

This time, Mickelson might only need to finish in fourth place alone, provided Woods is out of the top 24. And this time, he is far more confident in his driving, with only his iron play needing to get a little more sharp.

3B coach interferes for final out, Twins hold on

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— In a bizarre ending, Texas third base coach Dave Anderson was called for interfering with runner Michael Young for the final out Sunday, giving the Minnesota Twins a 6-5 win over the Rangers.

Down 6-2, the Rangers scored twice in the ninth inning and had the bases loaded with two outs.

Vladimir Guerrero grounded an RBI single up the middle that Twins second baseman Orlando Hudson fielded behind the bag. Young, who had been on second, came running around third and appeared to tap hands with Anderson before stopping and scrambling back to the bag.

Young made a dive back into third and appeared to beat Hudson's throw to third baseman Matt Tolbert. But third base umpire Alfonso Marquez pointed and made the interference call, ending the game.

AP

Texas Rangers Michael Young, left, is held back by Texas Rangers third base coach Dave Anderson (obscured) after being called out at third by third base umpire Alfonso Marquez, front right, to end a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010, in Minneapolis.

Blue Jays 7, Yankees 3

At New York, Aaron Hill and Vernon Wells each hit two-run homers as Toronto spoiled Alex Rodriguez's return to the New York lineup, beating the Yankees to halt their eight-game winning streak.

Rodriguez had been out since Aug. 20 with a strained left calf, but the Yankees didn't seem to miss him. They were riding their longest winning stretch of the season and 11-3 since he went on the disabled list, carrying a 2 1/2-game lead over Tampa Bay in the American League East into Sunday.

The three-time AL most valuable player had a pair of hits and drove in a run, but he also grounded out with a runner aboard in the first, dribbled one back to the pitcher with two on in the third, and struck out looking with a runner on third base to end the game.

Orioles 8, Rays 7

At Baltimore, Corey Patterson homered and had three RBIs as Baltimore withstood four home runs by Tampa Bay.

Baltimore took two of three from the Rays, who remained 2Ω games behind the first-place New York Yankees in the AL East. It was only the second time in 14 tries that the Orioles won the finale to take a three-game series.

Tampa Bay scored all its runs on homers by Ben Zobrist, Evan Longoria, B.J. Upton and Rocco Baldelli.

Royals 2, Tigers 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Alex Gordon homered as Kyle Davies pitched Kansas City past Detroit for the first time in six home starts.

Davies (7-9) went six innings and allowed only three hits and one run, a home run by Casper Wells in the fifth. He walked three and struck out four after coming in with an 0-5 record and a 6.59 ERA in five starts against the Tigers in Kauffman Stadium.

Joakim Soria had two strikeouts while pitching a perfect ninth to extend his club record with 30 consecutive saves. The right-hander has not allowed a score in 17 straight innings, spanning his last 17 outings. He has converted 37 of 39 save opportunities this season.

White Sox 7, Red Sox 5

At Boston, Gordon Beckham's bases-loaded walk with two outs pushed Chicago ahead in a four-run ninth inning for a sixth straight win and an improbable comeback victory over Boston.

The win completed a sweep of the three-game weekend series and came after Chicago trailed 5-3 entering the ninth inning and had two outs.

Victor Martinez had a two-run homer for the Red Sox, who lost both games of a day-night doubleheader by 3-1 scores on Saturday.

Red Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon (5-6) was one out away from the save, but Carlos Quentin's bloop RBI double to center cut the score to 5-4 before Ramon Castro tied it with a single.

Mariners 3, Indians 0

At Seattle, Felix Hernandez scattered four hits over eight innings as Seattle downed Cleveland.

Hernandez (11-10) gave up four singles in his 111-pitch effort. He walked one and struck out nine. David Aardsma worked the ninth to pick up his 28th save in 33 opportunities.

Russell Branyan drove in a pair of runs with a solo home run in the sixth, his 23rd, and a RBI double in the eighth.

Angels 7, Athletics 4

At Oakland, California, Bobby Abreu hit a home run and drove in three runs to lead the Los Angeles Angels to a victory over Oakland, avoiding their first sweep by the A's in six years.

Mike Napoli also hit a home run for the Angels, who have still lost nine of their past 13 games. Torii Hunter and Hideki Matsui also drove in runs.

Jeff Larish drove in two runs for the A's, who lost for the fifth time in seven games. Landon Powell and Jack Cust each added an RBI.

Ervin Santana (15-9) gave up three runs and six hits to improve to 7-2 over his last nine starts. He walked four and struck out three.

Giants 3, Dodgers 0

At Los Angeles, Jonathan Sanchez pitched seven crisp innings and Juan Uribe hit a two-run homer for the second straight game to lead San Francisco to a win over the Los Angeles Dodgers to put the Giants within one game of first place in the National League West.

The division-leading Padres lost 4-2 to Colorado earlier in the day for their 10th consecutive defeat. The Giants have picked up 5Ω games on San Diego during the Padres' skid, going 5-4 during that span. It's the closest they've been to first place in the division in the last 27 days.

Los Angeles has lost six of eight heading into a three-game series at San Diego beginning on Monday.

Cardinals 4, Reds 2

At St. Louis, Matt Holliday hit a go-ahead, three-run homer to back Chris Carpenter's latest dominant effort against Cincinnati, helping St. Louis take two of three from the NL Central-leading Reds.

The Cardinals reduced the Reds' formidable lead to seven games with 28 games to go. The two teams are not scheduled to play again this season.

St. Louis had lost eight of nine overall going into the weekend. This was its first series win since Aug. 20-22 against San Francisco.

Marlins 7, Braves 6, 10 innings

In Miami, sent to the plate after a scary scene, pinch-hitter Scott Cousins delivered a game-winning single in the 10th inning for his first big league hit and the Marlins beat the Braves.

The Braves had overcome a 6-0 deficit. They began the day with a one-game lead over Philadelphia in the NL East.

Cousins batted after Emilio Bonifacio lined a foul that struck teammate Logan Morrison in the helmet in the on-deck circle. Morrison collapsed face-down as the crowd gasped, but quickly rose and walked off the field accompanied by a trainer.

Mets 18, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Ruben Tejada hit his first major league homer and drove in five runs, Ike Davis also connected and the Mets erupted for 21 hits and pounded the Cubs to avoid a weekend sweep.

The Mets' bats perked up for season highs in runs and hits even though David Wright got a day off and Jose Reyes was still nursing a strained right oblique. They scored five runs in the fifth, eighth and ninth innings while winning for just the second time in seven games.

Brewers 6, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Prince Fielder hit his 30th home run, Randy Wolf was sharp against his former team and the Brewers beat the Phillies to snap a five-game losing streak.

Fielder's three-run shot off Kyle Kendrick (9-8) made him the second Brewer in team history with four straight 30-plus home run seasons. He helped the Brewers end their six-game road trip on a high after dropping the first five in Cincinnati and Philadelphia. John Axford tossed two scoreless innings for his 20th save.

Carlos Ruiz had two RBIs for the NL wild-card leading Phillies, who ended a five-game winning streak.

Nationals 8, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Ryan Zimmerman drove in four runs, Adam Dunn homered and Jason Marquis won his second in a row after previously going winless all season as the Nationals beat the Pirates in a matchup of last-place clubs.

The Nationals outscored the Pirates 17-3 in the final two games of the three-game set for their first road series victory in 18 attempts since they won two of three against the Mets from May 10-12.

Washington did most of its damage against Pirates right-hander Charlie Morton (1-11), who gave up six runs and eight hits over 3 2-3 innings yet still lowered his ERA to 9.66 because four runs were unearned. Morton began the game with a 10.03 ERA that was the third highest in major league history at this stage of a season for a pitcher with at least 10 decisions, according to STATS LLC.

Revis, Jets agree to terms on new deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Darrelle Revis and the New York Jets agreed to a new contract Sunday night, ending the All-Pro cornerback's holdout a week before the season opener.

The team announced the agreement in principle early Monday morning, but released no contract terms.

Revis was flying from his home in South Florida to New Jersey on Monday, and meeting with the team, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations were supposed to remain confidential, said it's a short-term deal with guaranteed money—a sticking point in the negotiations—but the exact terms were not immediately available.

The contract could be signed as early as Monday, getting Revis back on the field in time for the opener next Monday night against Baltimore at home.

Revis, who made no public statements about the negotiations since minicamp in June, used his Twitter account to thank his family and agents, Neil Schwartz and Jonathan Feinsod.

"To my family, neil, & john I love u guys I'm comin home baby!!!" Revis wrote. "Revis Island LET'S GO."

Both owner Woody Johnson and coach Rex Ryan met with Revis over the weekend to try to help get a deal done, the person told the AP. Ryan's inclusion in the meeting was first reported by the Daily News on Sunday night. Ryan was scheduled to have a conference call with reporters Saturday night to discuss the Jets' roster cutdown, but a team spokesman said Ryan was unavailable because he was at an "appointment."

That turned out to be a visit with the man whom Ryan has repeatedly called the best cornerback in the NFL.

Revis' holdout began Aug. 1, when the team reported for training camp in Cortland. He was scheduled to make $1 million in the fourth year of his six-year rookie deal, but has said he wants to become the league's highest-paid cornerback.

Turkey beats France; Spain downs Greece

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkey used a 21-4 run spanning the second and third quarters on Sunday to eliminate France from the basketball world championship with a 95-77 win.

Phoenix Suns forward Hedo Turkoglu scored 20 points and Sinan Guler added 17 for Turkey, which played its first tournament game in the new Sinan Erdem Dome. A nearly capacity crowd of 15,000—including 22 members of Turkey's national football squad sitting courtside—watched the home team make shoot 35 of 55 from the field in the round of 16 game.

Turkey's reward is to play Slovenia on Wednesday in the quarterfinals.

"Everybody knows the fans in Turkey are loud," France's Boris Diaw said. The red-clad masses didn't disappoint in this one, constantly cheering their team from before the tipoff through Guler's layup at about three minutes left in the first half to put Turkey up 32-24.

Turkoglu, who more than doubled his points-per-game average from Turkey's five preliminary round wins, then sparked the decisive run as he flashed the same point forward skills that helped propel his former NBA team, the Orlando Magic, into the 2009 NBA Finals.

He drove past Diaw and whipped a pass over Ali Traore to a diving Oguz Savas for a layup. Savas was fouled on the shot and made the free throw. On Turkey's next possession, Turkoglu drove around France's defense again, this time for a layup of his own.

"We did make mistakes, especially on defense. We missed our defensive rotations two or three times and gave them easy layups," French coach Vincent Collet said.

Spain 80, Greece 72

At Istanbul, Juan Carlos Navarro had 22 points as Spain beat Greece 80-72 Saturday in the round of 16 at the basketball world championships.

The Spaniards made eight of 18 three-pointers and used a 13-3 run in the fourth quarter to push ahead.

Greece closed it to 72-68 with 1:01 left in the game on a layup by Vasileios Spanoulis, but Ricky Rubio answered with two made free throws. Navarro hit four free throws and Sergio Llull made a layup to seal it for the Spain, which has beaten Greece seven consecutive times.

"It was very a tough game for us," Rubio said of a game which drew 15,000 to Sinan Erdem Dome. "Obviously it was not easy. We have faced some similar problems before with teams like Lithuania because they play very physically and tough."

Lithuania finished undefeated in five first-round games, including a win against Spain.

Rudy Fernandez of the Portland Trailblazers scored 14 for Spain. Dimitrios Diamantidis and Nikolaos Zisis each had 16 points for the Greeks. Diamantidis, who helped Greece defeat the U.S. in the semifinals of the 2006 Worlds in Japan, afterwards announced his retirement from national team play.

Spain built a 37-31 going into halftime as Greece missed all three of its three-point attempts.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	86	51	.628	—
Tampa Bay	83	53	.610	2 1/2
Boston	76	61	.555	10
Toronto	70	66	.515	15 1/2
Baltimore	51	86	.372	35

Central Division

Minnesota	80	57	.584	—
Chicago	76	60	.559	3 1/2
Detroit	68	69	.496	12
Kansas City	57	79	.419	22 1/2
Cleveland	55	82	.401	25

West Division

Texas	75	61	.551	—
Oakland	67	69	.493	8
Los Angeles	66	71	.482	9 1/2
Seattle	54	83	.394	21 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	79	58	.577	—
Philadelphia	78	59	.569	1
Florida	69	66	.511	9
New York	67	70	.489	12
Washington	59	78	.431	20

Central Division

Cincinnati	79	57	.581	—
St. Louis	71	63	.530	7
Houston	64	72	.471	15
Milwaukee	63	73	.463	16
Chicago	59	78	.431	20 1/2
Pittsburgh	45	91	.331	34

West Division

San Diego	76	59	.563	—
San Francisco	76	61	.555	1
Colorado	72	64	.529	4 1/2
Los Angeles	69	68	.504	8
Arizona	56	81	.409	21

Yesterday's Games

Florida 7, Atlanta 6, 10 innings
Milwaukee 6, Philadelphia 2
Washington 8, Pittsburgh 1
St. Louis 4, Cincinnati 2
N.Y. Mets 18, Chicago Cubs 5
Colorado 4, San Diego 2
Houston 3, Arizona 2
San Francisco 3, L.A. Dodgers 0
Toronto 7, N.Y. Yankees 3
Chicago White Sox 7, Boston 5
Baltimore 8, Tampa Bay 7
Kansas City 2, Detroit 1
Minnesota 6, Texas 5
L.A. Angels 7, Oakland 4
Seattle 3, Cleveland 0

DEUTSCHE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

NORTON, Massachussetts (AP)—Scores Sunday from the Deutsche Bank Championships at the 7,214-yard, par-71 TPC Boston course:

THIRD ROUND

Jason Day	63-67-66—196
Brandt Snedeker	66-64-67—197
Luke Donald	65-67-66—198
Steve Stricker	65-68-67—200
Charley Hoffman	64-67-69—200
Geoff Ogilvy	64-72-65—201
Adam Scott	67-69-65—201
Phil Mickelson	69-65-67—201
Charlie Wi	68-66-67—201
Justin Leonard	69-66-67—202
Andres Romero	68-66-68—202
D.J. Trahan	64-69-69—202
Tom Gillis	67-71-65—203
John Rollins	66-70-67—203
Vijay Singh	66-68-69—203
John Senden	66-68-69—203
Matt Kuchar	66-65-72—203
Y.E. Yang	67-70-68—205
Ryan Palmer	64-72-69—205
Hunter Mahan	64-70-71—205
Zach Johnson	63-71-71—205
Steve Marino	65-69-71—205
Brian Davis	64-73-69—206
J.B. Holmes	66-71-69—206
Angel Cabrera	69-68-69—206
Tiger Woods	72-65-69—206
Kevin Na	69-67-70—206
Stewart Cink	68-66-72—206
Michael Sim	68-66-72—206
Kris Blanks	66-68-72—206
Jason Dufner	66-73-68—207
Ernie Els	70-67-70—207
Retief Goosen	67-69-71—207
Bo Van Pelt	70-70-68—208
Bill Haas	66-73-69—208
Blake Adams	70-68-70—208
Matt Jones	65-70-73—208
Rory McIlroy	64-76-69—209
Paul Casey	66-72-71—209
Martin Laird	66-69-74—209
Fredrik Jacobson	65-76-69—210
Dustin Johnson	73-68-69—210
Ryan Moore	64-76-70—210
Tim Petrovic	68-71-71—210
Jim Furyk	66-73-71—210
Camilo Villegas	67-72-71—210
Lucas Glover	70-68-72—210
Stephen Ames	67-68-75—210
Nick Watney	69-72-70—211
Davis Love III	71-69-71—211
Ryuji Imada	67-71-73—211
Bubba Watson	67-71-73—211
Rickie Fowler	67-70-74—211
Tim Clark	69-72-71—212
Greg Chalmers	68-72-72—212
K.J. Choi	69-71-72—212
Brendon de Jonge	67-72-73—212
Kevin Streelman	69-70-73—212
Stuart Appleby	70-71-72—213
Jason Bohn	67-74-72—213
Ian Poulter	67-73-73—213
Ricky Barnes	68-71-74—213
Josh Teater	68-70-75—213
David Toms	67-71-75—213
Heath Slocum	68-72-74—214
Robert Allenby	69-70-75—214
Shaun Micheel	68-71-75—214
Charles Howell III	68-70-77—215
Paul Goydos	68-73-75—216
Aaron Baddeley	71-70-75—216
Marc Leishman	71-68-77—216
Garrett Willis	70-71-78—219

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SATBAHI

From Page 28

eventual champions. Satbahi's defense also came alive in the second and contained Wings Travel to only 13 points in the quarter. At the half, Satbahi jumped out to a 15-point lead, 50-35.

Wings Travel regrouped after halftime and made up a lot of ground in the third period. James Camacho and Jesse Mina led the rally for Wings Travel with 12 and 10 points, respectively. Their defense tightened up a bit as well and held Satbahi to 15 points. Wings Travel trimmed the lead down to six, 59-65, going into the final quarter.

Satbahi strategically gave their starters a breather in the third to set up a big push to close out the game. Satbahi's Badong Camacho played well in the clutch with 12 fourth-quarter points and received nine points in support from teammate Rolly Paraiso.

Credit to Wings Travel for keeping this one close all the way to the very end. It was a one possession game for the last three minutes of play. Satbahi was clinging to their lead by a thread all the way to the end, however they kept it together and made enough free throws to get their revenge.

Badong Camacho led Satbahi with a game-high 26 points, while Finals MVP Mortos chipped in 20.

Mina led Wings Travel in the loss with 23, while James Camacho wound up with 22.

In the battle for third played earlier, Grillin' soundly defeated MGD, 71-61, after a rocky start.

MGD played solid defense and shared the ball very well on the other end in the opening period to build n impressive lead, 26-14. However, MGD allowed 26 points by Grillin' and only managed a measly six-point effort in the second quarter. Lerio Pagarao led the charge for Grillin' with eight points and received six points in support from Rocyl Ritual. Grillin' went from trailing by 12 in the first to ahead by eight, 40-32, at the half.

The second half was all Grillin' as MGD looked deflated after their rough second quarter. Pagarao and Ritual added seven and six more points, respectively, for Grillin' in the third as their team stretched the lead to 11, 57-46. MGD guard Von Tamayo and Grillin's Pagarao each scored six points in fourth quarter as play was even on both sides. Grillin' played keep away at the end and went on to settle for third place honors, 71-61.

First Game

Grillin' 71 – Pagarao 24, Ritual 16, Hernandez 11, Herrera 11, Rotap 6, Tibiyan 2, Itaas 1.

MGD 61 – Lauron 14, Achas 12, Tamayo 12, Trajano 10, Lansang 6, Barbo 5, Maglaya 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-26, 40-32, 57-46, 71-61.

Second Game

Satbahi 95 – Camacho 26, Mortos 20, Paraiso 19, Sison 14, Concepcion 4, Tengco 4, Siriban 2, Torres 2, Velasco 2, Wodson 2, Hernandez 1.

Wings Travel 92 – Mina 23, Camacho 22, Gamboa 11, Itaas 11, Manolo 11, Morales 10, Hilario 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-22, 50-35, 65-59, 95-92.

FIXERS

From Page 28

cho, and Grillin' center Rocyl Ritual.

Individual awards were also handed out in the Miller Lite caging awards ceremony, which immediately followed the one-game finals between eventual champion Satbahi and runner-up Wings Travel.

Taga Security's Joel Javier won the most rebounds trophy, Satbahi's Badong Camacho won the most blocked shots award, Noel David was granted the most assists honors, Mythical's Jun Tabora was declared scoring champion, and Trinity's Epi Cabrera was crowned 3-point king.

Satbahi's Sison was also selected as the best coach after stirring his team to a perfect 10-0 record in the regular season. Then after his team suffered a surprising upset in the first round of the semifinals, Sison led his team back through the loser's bracket and all the way to the championship.

Aside from Satbahi cornering the championship trophy, Wings Travel collected the runner-up championship trophy after losing in the finals.

Grillin' took the third place trophy after downing MGD, 71-61, in the curtain raiser. Additionally, VCC was presented with the Sportsmanship Award and Highway Express won the Best Uniform team trophy.

BUSCH

From Page 28

only 1-for-5 in the first two games in the title series, made a crucial hit in Game 3 to help Busch A Mad eke out a 5-4 victory in the deciding match.

Manibo's base hit, which rolled past first base, came when Busch A Mad was behind, 4-2, at the bottom of the seventh inning. She was the fifth batter and had runners on corners with only one out.

Once Manibo stepped up to the plate, her teammates egged her on to bring runners home. However, Manibo came up with an empty swing in her first try and was one strike away from being thrown out. Manibo redeemed herself in her second swing, as she blasted a base hit with the ball heading right and stopping past first base with Sakudi defenders struggling to pick it up.

The Sakudi miscue then allowed Janet Jones and Didiich Tudela reach home plate, tying the game at 4-all. Finally, a Sakudi outfielder picked up the ball, but the pennant champion made another costly error, as the throw to home plate was too high for catcher Jenny Palacios. Busch A Mad's Emy Quitugua then capitalized on Sakudi's booboo, as she crossed the plate for the game-winning run.

Busch A Mad also won Game 2 on a last-minute run, 3-2.

Game 2 was tied after six and a half innings, 2-2. At the bottom of the last inning, Angie Ngirbedul advanced to first. Janet Jones was next at bat and flied out to center. Tudela then came up next and hit her target with the ball dropping to deep center. Tudela then ran to first and then second, while Sakudi tried to tag out Ngirbedul, who was sprinting to third.

Sakudi third baseman Kuki Pangelinan failed to catch the ball and while she tried to recover it, Ngirbedul found an opportunity to run to home plate for the game-winning run.

Sakudi had a chance to notch the championship after taking Game 1, 8-3. The pennant champion leaned on a five-run bottom of the fifth to move a win away from taking home the crown.

Popo Tudela led Sakudi's Game 1 triumph when she blasted a three-run single, turning a 3-all deadlock to a 6-3 advantage. Lilian Aguon and Pangelinan then connected on a one-run single apiece to make it an 8-3 count for Sakudi.

Sakudi preserved the lead and the win when it shut out Busch A Mad in the last two innings, allowing the latter to reach only second base.

Busch A Mad and Sakudi then took a 15-minute break before resuming the finals series and the short lull was enough for the former to regain its bearings, sweep the last two matches, and pull off an upset over the pennant champion.

OCEANIA

From Page 28

race in the CNMI.

"I heard a lot of good news about the race. There were several riders from Korea, Japan, and Russia who joined last year's race and that gave the event a sort of international flavor. I am sure cyclists from Oceania, like those from Australia and New Zealand, will be interested in the race," Victor said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

"When I return to Australia, I will inform cyclists that there is a race on Saipan that is worth the try. They may not be able to come here this year, but I am positive, we may bring some Oceania riders in future races," he said

Victor added getting information about local races was one of the reasons Oceania Cycling Confederation decided to reach out to island-nations who are not yet members of the association.

"We want to know what's the status of cycling in the area and find out how we can be of help to them. Promoting local races to cyclist from the rest of Oceania is one way of helping the growing groups of cyclists in the region," Victor said.

The Hell of Marianas will be on its fourth year with the 2010 edition set to kick off on Dec. 4.

The 100-kilometer race around the island has drawn back Korean, Japanese, and Russian riders. Guam has also confirmed to send a bigger delegation this time.

The Hell of the Marianas will hold races for both men's and women's divisions and in road and mountain bike categories. There will be team events, too. Cash prizes await winners in individual race. The men's and women's open divisions champions in the road bike category will receive $1,500 each; $500 will go to the runners-up; and $250 to third finishers.

The Top 3 finishes in the age group categories will receive medals and giveaways from host Pacific Islands Club. Medals and/or gift certificates provided by event sponsors will also be given to team relay winners.

For more information about Hell of Marianas, contact PIC at 237-5148 or e-mail at seaex-ec@picsaipan.com or dosm@picsaipan.com.

Coaches nomination for Pacific Games needed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is requiring member federations to submit a letter of nomination for individuals being considered as coaches of teams competing in the XIV Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

During last week's NMASA meeting presided by vice president Jeff Race, in the absence of president Michael White, the former reminded various sports associations that nomination letters should be presented on or before NMASA's next monthly meeting on Oct. 7.

Race added the nomination letter should have a brief profile of the coach and information could include his/her accomplishment as a mentor, his/her contributions to the sport/team, and other details that would justify his nomination.

Sports federations are asked to nominate coaches for the Pacific Games and start their preparations for the event early, as the event will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10, 2011.

CNMI teams/athletes have yet to commit for the Pacific Games, but the Commonwealth is expected to send a smaller delegation than the one it had in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last month.

Northern Marianas Athletics' Robin Sapong, who attended last week's NMASA meeting, said they are looking to send no more than three athletes in Noumea. In last month's Micro Games, NMA sent more than 30 athletes and ruled the athletics competition in Palau.

Baseball's Tony Rogolifoi, who also joined the monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, said they are still weighing their options and thinking how to find funding for the Games. The Rogolifoi-managed CNMI baseball team won the silver medal in the Micro Games.

A lean CNMI delegation is likely not only because of funding challenges, but also due to the conflict of schedule of the competition in New Caledonia. The 15-day event falls on school days and most of CNMI athletes are students so it will hard for them to miss school to travel and compete in New Caledonia.

In 2007 during the XIII Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, the CNMI sent only seven athletes who competed in athletics, beach volleyball, and tennis. Dexter Dillay and Tyrone Omar represented the CNMI in athletics, Mark McDonald, Tyce Mister, Melissa Halaby, and Nina Mosley competed in beach volleyball, and Tim Quan joined the tennis tournament. Joining the lean CNMI delegation were coaches Elias Rangamar (athletics) and Russ Quinn (beach volleyball), basketball referee Gabriel White, and chef de mission Michael White.

Meanwhile, 28 sports are lined up in New Caledonia—athletics, football, badminton, basketball, boxing, judo, cricket, rugby 7, rugby league, squash, tennis, table tennis, triathlon, canoe racing, baseball, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, sailing, taekwondo, karate, surfing, golf, archery, power lifting, weight lifting, swimming, and shooting.

Next year's Pacific Games is expected to draw more than 5,000 athletes and officials from 22 participating countries.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The CNMI beach volleyball team, from left, Melissa Halaby and Nina Mosley coach Russ Quinn, Tyce Mister, and Mark McDonald enjoy a light moment in this photo taken before leaving for Samoa for the XIII Pacific Games in 2007. Next year's Pacific Games will be held in New Caledonia and NMASA is asking federations to nominate coaches for the event.

Black Stallions continue romp in Masters

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

TDI's Black Stallions continued its reign atop the Masters Division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association following a 10-7 win against Oleai Beach Bar and Grill's Erap Snipers at Buddies Wednesday night.

The triumph improved Black Stallions' win-loss record to 61-24 in the division, while the loss dropped second place Erap Snipers to 55-30. Buddies' Bullshooters and D'Pirates Bar & Grill's M-Destroyers complete the Top 4 with records of 45-40 and 42-34, respetively.

Other matches in the Masters Division Wednesday saw Buddies Red Horse go into Oleai Beach Bar and Grill and defeat the El'Companeros, Buddies' Bullshooters beat VFW Angry Dragons at home, and D'Pirates Bar & Grill's M-Destroyers dominate Jonny's Just 4 Fun at home.

In a range of seven to 10 games, Pam Ybanez is still ranked first in the individual standings with a weighted average of 70.12. Willy Cuesta (68.98), Jun Olita (67.51), Jun Lapeciros (63.76), Anie Legaspi (62.92), Junnie Guevarra (60.83), Romano Quindoza (60.47), Joy Silva (59.98), Noel Saluta (59.60), and Leo Lindo (59.54) round out the Top 10.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Red Horse members, from left, Nonoy Avelino, Rick Elefante, Patrick Castro, Larry Santiago, and Jhun Lambon pose for a photo after defeating home team El'Companeros at Oleai Beach Bar and Grill in last Wednesday's SEDA master division match.

Black Stallions 10, Erap Snipers 7

Black Stallions won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches to give it an early lead. Then the Black Stallions swept both games of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out and both teams won a pair of Singles Sniper matches. The Erap Snipers swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket, but Jun Olita, Jun Lapeciros, and Noel Montalbo of the Black Stallions won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches; Lapeciros' win clinched the automatic win for the Black Stallions and the Erap Snipers took the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out game.

Red Horse 10, El'Companeros 7

Junnie Guevarra, Bing Campo, and Greg Sasamoto of the home team El'Companeros won three of the four opening Singles Regular Cricket matches to give their team a brief lead. Then both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out and Red Horse's Rick Elefante, Larry Santiago, and Nonoy Avelino tied the game after taking three of the four Singles Sniper matches. Red Horse swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and teammates, Elefante, Santiago, and Jhun Lambon won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches; Santiago's win gave Red Horse the automatic win and the El'Campaneros won the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out game.

Bullshooters 10, Angry Dragons 7

Romano Quindoza, Jun Baltazar, and Noel Unay of the home team Bullshooters won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches to jump their team out in front. The Bullshooters swept both Partners 501 Double In/Double out games and both teams won a pair of Singles Sniper matches. Then the Bullshooters sealed the automatic win after sweeping both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket games. Charlie Peters, Lionel Sanchez, and Jayson John of the Angry Dragons won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double games and the Angry Dragons took the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out match.

M-Destroyers 11, Just 4 Fun 6

Sadini "Boy" Martin, Leo Lindo, and Jeff Barit of the home team M-Destroyers won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket to shoot their team ahead early and after the M-Destroyers swept both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out games, teammates Martin, Barit, and Eric Durano won three of the four Singles Sniper matches. Both teams won a pair of partners Wild and Crazy Cricket, but the M-Destroyer's win gave them the automatic victory. Just 4 Fun's Wilson Quiban, Julian Camacho, and Zaldy Quebral won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games, but the M-Destroyers took the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out match.

One Shot takes over Chichirika lead

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

VFW Post 3457's One Shot took over the lead in the Chichirika Division Saipan Electronic Dart Association after an impressive 11-4 spanking of Gaia's Gaiana-C on the road Wednesday night.

The victory vaulted One Shot to first place in the division with a 46-29 win-loss card, but it is still anyone's game with erstwhile leader Oh! MG (45-30) and Buddies' Kagman-1 (43-32) trailing close behind. Notably, One Shot and Oh! MG will be facing each other tomorrow at VFW Post 3457, while Kagman-1 is set to face last place team World V.

Other results last Wednesday saw Jonny's Night Hawks made light work of Gaia's World V in a home game and Oh! MG take out Kagman-1.

One Shot 11, Gaiana-C 4

Kevin Maratita, Tina Agulto, and Randy Pagapular of visiting One Shot won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games for the early lead. Then both teams won a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket before One Shot swept both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out matches. Both teams won a pair of Singles Regular Cricket, but Agulto's victory gave One Shot the automatic win. Showing no mercy, One Shot went on to sweep both Partners Baseball games and the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match to put them on top of the leader board.

Oh! MG 8, Kagman-1 7

Donovan Jose P. Castro, Arisa Sakai, and Carol Chargualaf of home team Oh! MG won three out of the four opening Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches to give their team an early lead. Then both teams won a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket, a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out, and a pair of Singles Regular Cricket matches. Oh! MG's Chargaulaf and Sakai clinched the automatic win for their team after winning the first Partners Baseball game. Kagman-1 went on to take the second baseball match and the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out game.

Night Hawks 9, World V 6

Buddy Garote, Bunsong Srisomkhieo, and Samart Buathong of the home team Night Hawks won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games to help jump their team out in front. Then the Night Hawks swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and a both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out matches. In a late rally attempt, World V's James Wabinga, Anthony Mendoza, and Paul Cha won three of the four Regular Singles Cricket matches, but Night Hawk Jay Catana took the last game to seal the automatic win for his team. World V swept both Partners Baseball games and the Night Hawks won the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match.

Querrey wins, hopes to put 'US' back in US Open

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Coaches nomination for Pacific Games needed

PAGE 27

Satbahi hailed Miller Lite caging champs

Satbahi celebrates after being crowned champion of the 2010 Miller Lite Invitational Basketball League. Satbahi defeated Wings Travel, 95-92, last Sunday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Satbahi saved face during Sunday night's winner-take-all championship game in the 2010 Miller Lite Invitational Basketball League after getting back at their rival Wings Travel squad, 95-92, at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Satbahi was the heavy favorite coming into the playoffs after finishing a perfect 10-0 win-loss record in the regular season, but were upset by the fourth-seeded Wings Travel in first round.

Out of the four squads, Wings Travel was the Cinderella team of the group and quickly became a crowd favorite as the playoffs went on.

Satbahi ate the loss and fought their way back up through the loser's bracket to get their rematch, this time for all the marbles. The championship game was worthy of its label, the game was very physical, the crowd grew louder as the end neared and both teams were very evenly matched.

Andy Mortos scored 10 points in the opening quarter for Satbahi, but Wings Travel as a unit still managed a four-point lead, 18-22, after the first quarter.

Then Satbahi's Marlon Sison hit a couple of threes to go with his 10-point effort in the second period and received a healthy 22 points of mixed support in what was a breakout quarter for the

See SATBAHI on Page 26

Fixers' Barrios and Satbahi's Mortos awarded MVP honors

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Fixers guard J.R. Barrios and Satbahi forward Andy Mortos were named regular season and Finals MVP, respectively, of the 2010 Miller Lite Invitational Basketball League .

Mortos won the Finals MVP trophy for his 20-point performance, stingy defense, and generous ball distribution in Satbahi's 95-92 finals victory against Wings Travel Sunday night

He was also named to the Mythical Five along with teammate Marlon Sison, MGD's Von Tamayo, Wings Travel forward James Cama-

See FIXERS on Page 26

Barrios

Mortos

Oceania cycling official vows to promote 'Hell'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race is likely to lure Oceania riders in the coming years after a cycling official vowed to help promote the race in the region.

Oceania Cycling Confederation Mike Victor, who was on Saipan last week for a four-day official visit, met with Hell of Marianas organizers and was briefed about the biggest cycling

See OCEANIA on Page 26

Busch A Mad rules Belau women's softball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Busch A Mad pulled off a come-from-behind win over pennant champion Sakudi to top the 2010 Belau Amateur Softball Association Women's League last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Busch A Mad swept the last two games of the best-of-three championship series to rule the league and foil Sakudi's bid for dominating the annual league.

Jemma Manibo, who went

See BUSCH on Page 26

Members of Busch A Mad pose with their championship trophy after stunning Sakudi in the finals of the 2010 Belau Amateur Softball Association Women's League last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO